THE MODERN PLUTARCH;

OR,

Universal Biography:

INCLUDING

Authentic Memoirs

OF

DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC CHARACTERS,

OF ALL NATIONS, LIVING AND RECENTLY DECEASED.

WITH

ORIGINAL PORTRAITS.

VOL. I.

UNDER THE IMMEDIATE DIRECTION OF SEVERAL LITERARY GENTLEMEN.

"Hominem pagina nostra sapit."

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THE TANJORE MAHARAJA SERFOJI'S SARASVATI MAHAL

PREFACE.

INSTRUCTION is the grand aim of biography. In retracing the actions of monarchs, we become acquainted with the revolutions of empires; in examining the conduct of statesmen, those satellites of power, we perceive the more intricate causes which influence the fate of nations; in following the course of humbler individuals, we develop the secret springs by which society in general is set in motion, and, consequently, become acquainted with causes and their effects, which would otherwise appear to us not only wonderful, but would excite in us a spirit of enquiry which could not be easily gratified.

Plutarch, of Cheronea, whose Lives *and* Morals *have procured him a perennial fame, was anxious, by instructing his countrymen, to make them better men and better citizens. To be virtuous is the end of wisdom; and happiness is the result of virtue; for, as the poet has justly observed, "angels are* happier *than men, because they are* better."

Plutarch wrote only the lives of great *men; but our purpose is more comprehensive, as it embraces those of all ranks and nations, who, by their virtues or their vices, are entitled to praise or reprehension, to fame or notoriety, to panegyric or invective.*

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This may be termed the age of systems. *Yet, at a period when we are inundated with systems of divinity, of ethics, of the arts and sciences, and even* systems of biography, *we venture to leave all systems behind; and, like the wandering stars of the firmament, to pursue an erratic course.*

We flatter ourselves, however, that this departure from system will not be productive of disadvantage; but that, on the contrary, it will enable us, without ceremony or inconvenience, to bring forward such characters as may form the attractive points of the moment; and thus constitute an interesting Mirror of the Times, *so far as relates to public men and public measures.*

Without assuming to ourselves the lofty praise which is due to the illustrious Plutarch, our views are the same; *and, while we are gratifying a laudable curiosity, by affording useful information to the public, we are not without hope, that our exertions may entitle us to some portion of that honourable fame, which has rendered sacred the memory of that distinguished philosopher.*

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MAHARAJA SERFOJI'S SARASVATI MAHAL

MODERN

PLUTARCH.

ALEXANDER I.

EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

At a period like the present, when the fate of Europe seems suspended in the balance, when surrounding nations are looking up to the Russian cabinet, as to the grand arbiter of their destinies, the life and actions of the monarch who presides over its councils, cannot be regarded with indifference, but must excite a general interest. Independently, however, of his power, of the extent of his empire,* and of its importance in the scale of nations, the virtues of Alexander entitle him to precedence of notice.

It was the opinion of a great man, that the subjects

* The empire of Russia occupies a space of 2,700, 06 geometrical square miles; viz. in the frigid zone 67,157, and in the temperate 2,633,349, amounting to almost one-fourteenth of the northern hemisphere; with a population of 31,000,000. To this may be added, the emperor's late conquests in Persia, from the Black Sea to the banks of the Caspian, containing a population of 6,000,000.

of an absolute government, if headed by a truly virtuous and magnanimous prince, were the happiest of men. But so seldom is this the case, that, with the exception of such a republic as that which was *attempted to be established* in modern France, an absolute monarchy is, of all others, the government to be the most deprecated. Alexander, however, though absolute, in the strictest sense of the word, lives but for the happiness of his people.

Anxious as, perhaps, the reader may be, to become acquainted with so amiable a monarch, we are persuaded that he will experience no difficulty in suspending his immediate curiosity, while we take a rapid glance at Russia, as she appeared in the "times of old," ere she had assumed that gigantic power which she now possesses. The circumstances of the moment must give some interest to the *coup d'œil* proposed.

Russia, until the ninth century, was very little known; but, from that period, an air of veracity attends her chronicles. In the tenth century she was much engaged in war with the emperor of Constantinople. About the same time, her princes embraced the Christian religion; that faith was finally established in Russia; and from this era may be dated the first dawn of civilization. At the commencement, however, of the thirteenth century, the progressive effects of christianity were arrested by the inroads of the Tartars, who, after numerous contests, proved victorious, and desolated Russia. They, indeed, did not long remain there; but, oppressed by the Swedes and Poles, who took advantage of her distress, the power of Russia was palsied; and, fresh bodies of Tartars arriving, the country was wholly subjugated. The slavery of the

 Russians

Russians lasted for upwards of two centuries, when Ivan Vassilievitz, a man of talent and vigour, but partaking of the barbarity of his age and country, ascended the throne. This prince, after a long series of conflicts, partially succeeded in emancipating his people from their dependence on the Tartars. His son and successor, Vassili, attempted to complete the independence of Russia, but did not entirely succeed; the final overthrow of the Tartars being reserved for Ivan Vassilievitz II. who entirely destroyed the Tartar kingdom of Astracan, and also triumphed over the Poles. This prince commenced an intercourse with the more civilized parts of Europe, and was desirous of introducing some degree of refinement among his subjects; but he found them totally unfit for the reception of his proposed improvements. Ivan was hypocritical and cruel, yet he studied the interests of his people; and, under his auspices, the commerce of the country, cherished and promoted by its new intercourse with England, was greatly increased.

To Ivan Vassilievitz II. succeeded his son Fedor, a man whose imbecile constitution was by no means adapted to sustain the weight of empire. His impotence of mind, too, was equal to the weakness of his body; his favourite recreation consisting in disputing with the servants of the church, the glory of giving melody to the bells. Fedor, from his inability to govern, was under the necessity of delegating his power to others. The chief management of the empire devolved upon Boris, his brother-in-law, who, on the death of Fedor, without issue, succeeded to the throne. The rightful heir was Demetrius; but Boris caused that prince to be murdered, and with him terminated the

race of Rurick, which had governed Russia for seven hundred years.

The usurper displayed considerable ability, but his cruelty raised him enemies; and an impostor, pretending to be Demetrius, the lawful prince, greatly disturbed his reign. The false Demetrius also continued his excitations to rebellion during the reign of Fedor, the son of Boris; at length succeeded in deposing him, and ultimately became sovereign of Russia. During his time, the Poles, who were his chief supporters, acquired great influence; but the Russians bore their supremacy with much impatience, and a conspiracy having been fomented, Demetrius was murdered. From this time, a period of seven years elapsed in anarchy. Two new impostors sprang up, and blood and devastation prevailed. The Swedes and Poles continued to excite disturbances; but the Russians felt the necessity of restoring public order and tranquillity, by the choice of a new sovereign, and, with this patriotic design, the States assembled at Moscow, then the capital of the empire. At length Michael Fedorovitz, of the house of Romanof, a youth of sixteen, and a native of Russia, though of Prussian extraction, was called from the monastery to ascend the long vacant throne, by the unanimous consent of this august assembly.*

We now proceed to the accession of *Peter the Great*, which took place in the year 1682. With his reign may be said to have originated the power and aggrandisement of Russia. His uncultivated, but vigorous genius, civilized a barbarous people. He found his

* Vide Card's "Revolutions of Russia."

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dominions little better than a desert, with very few cities, fewer fortresses, and scarcely any port, except that of Archangel. He was liable to the insults of all his neighbours: the Tartars entered his territories at pleasure; the Turks looked upon him as their dependent; the Poles were more than a match for him; and the Swedes contemned him. But, at the time of his decease, things wore a widely different aspect. He had travelled for the acquisition of knowledge; he had introduced the arts and sciences; he had destroyed the theocracy of an ignorant and superstitious clergy; he had dismissed and punished the Russian Janissaries, (the Strelitz) soldiers, dangerous and dreaded by the sovereign, cruel and ferocious with the people. He had done even more than this: he had torn from Sweden some of her best provinces, and in them had erected his new capital of St. Petersburgh. He had taught, not his neighbours only, but all Europe, to respect him. He had not merely established a new power in the north, but, purely by his own skill, had created a new maritime power. He knew how to build ships, as well as to command them. He was at once a soldier, a seaman, a statesman, and a sovereign; and was deservedly called the father of his country. He assumed the title of emperor, and left it to his successors, who have since enjoyed it without dispute, as an inheritance purchased by virtue.*

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* Previously to the time of *Peter the Great*, the sovereign of Russia was known by no higher title than that of Grand Duke of Muscovy. The Russians, indeed, never recognised this title; for they called their monarch simply the Czar, which signifies the supreme lord. With respect to Muscovy, as it comprehended only a small part of his dominions, they never added it to his

title,

This great monarch dying in the year 1725, was succeeded by his consort, the empress Catharine, who survived him but little more than two years, and left the empire to Peter II. the grandson of her deceased lord, and the last heir male of his family. Thus Russia fell under the dominion of a child. Prince Menzikoff, the favourite of Peter the Great, and also of the late empress, was a man of boundless ambition, and, at the time of the young emperor's accession, had the whole power of the empire in his hands. This aspiring character formed a design of raising his daughter to the rank of empress; but the youthful sovereign* had so much sense and spirit, that, perceiving his views, he disgraced and banished him, and confiscated his estates. His reign, however, proved but short, for he fell a victim to the small-pox early in the year 1730.

The regular succession was now at a stand; for, had the legitimate heir to the throne succeeded, the country would again have been subjected to the hazardous domination of a minority. To avoid this, therefore, the principal nobility of the empire, after much doubt and discussion, cast their eyes upon the Princess Anna Iwanowna, Duchess of Courland; of the imperial line, indeed, but out of all the rules of succession.† Much finesse was resorted to upon this occasion. The Princes Dolgorouki, who had been

title, but, on the contrary, styled him the sovereign of all the Russias.

* He was only twelve years old at the period of his ascending the throne.

† She was the second daughter of John, the elder brother of Peter the Great.

raised

raised by Peter II. to the highest employments in the empire, undertook the management of the business. They accordingly assigned the new empress a council, framed a new constitution for the empire, and limited the royal authority as they thought proper, the empress assenting to all their proposals. No sooner, however, did she feel herself firm upon the throne, than she cancelled all these innovations, banished their authors, made choice of grave and wise men for her ministers, and gave the command of her armies to the most able and experienced generals. By this prompt and decisive conduct, she was enabled to govern with great reputation, and to maintain the credit of her empire, with respect to the rest of Europe. To Charles VI. of Germany, she afforded a powerful succour against the house of Bourbon; she seated the rightful king of Poland on the throne of his father, notwithstanding the arts, and in despite of the arms of France; she made war against the Turks with great success, and completely succeeded in ruining the power of the Crim Tartars. The only error in her reign—an error of serious importance—was that of confiding almost wholly in strangers, particularly Germans, with whom she filled her councils and armies. This naturally excited much envy and resentment in the Russian nobility, which, towards the end of her reign, could scarcely be restrained from bursting forth into open tumult.

The Empress Anna brought to the Russian court her niece, the Princess Ann of Mecklenburg, the daughter of her eldest sister, and married her to Prince Anthony Ulric, of Brunswick Beveren, resolving to nominate the issue of this marriage to the succession. Accordingly, in August 1740, the Princess of Mecklenburg

lenburg was delivered of a son, whom the czarina, conformably to the Russian constitution, established by Peter the Great, named her successor, and directed that the prince his father, and the grand duchess his mother, should be his guardians. She also appointed a council about the intended emperor, at the head of which was the Duke of Courland, her great favourite. The empress, as though her life had been prolonged but to witness the close of her proposed arrangements, died in the month of October, subsequent to the birth of her successor.

Notwithstanding the young emperor was immediately acknowledged by the senate and people in his cradle, and notwithstanding the Marquis de la Chetardie, the French minister, made his imperial majesty a long speech upon the occasion, assuring him of the sincere friendship of Louis XV. to Iwan, or John, sovereign of all the Russias, his youthful arm was not long destined to wield the sceptre. His royal guardians committed a fatal error; for they thought fit not only to remove the Duke of Courland from his share in the government, but also to seize upon his person, and to banish him and his family into Siberia. This stroke was managed with so much address, that it occasioned scarcely any stir or bloodshed in its execution, and scarcely any noise or tumult in its consequences. It served, however, if not for a precedent, at least for a prelude to a revolution of far greater importance.

Peter the Great had left behind him a daughter, whose name was Elizabeth Petrowna, a lady of distinguished accomplishments, and now about thirty years of age. She had lived at court during the preceding reign, in

a manner

a manner far from being suitable to her birth; but the prudence of her deportment, added to that magnanimity with which she supported her misfortunes, had such an effect on all who beheld her, that she had long reigned in the hearts of the people. At length the whole nation evinced such an affection for her, that some, who had served her father with fidelity, and now enjoyed the rewards of their services, resolved to hazard all for her deliverance, and to risk every thing in order to place her upon the throne. They attempted, and succeeded. The revolution was effected in a single night. On the 5th of December, the Princess Elizabeth was a kind of prisoner in the imperial palace: on the 6th she was seated on the imperial throne; and, the tongues of her subjects being at liberty, she was saluted empress of all the Russias, by the unanimous voice of the people.

No sooner were her brows adorned with the crown of her illustrious ancestor, than she displayed the highest marks of those virtues which had rendered her worthy of elevation. She rewarded munificently such as had assisted in the revolution, and magnanimously suffered those who had persecuted her to escape with lenity. She caused many of the abuses which had been committed in the internal management of the empire to be redressed; restored the great families of Russia to their just ranks, and, what must have been peculiarly gratifying to her subjects at large, entrusted them with the principal employments in the government. In the administration of foreign affairs, very little alteration took place; but, by her wise and moderate behaviour, she secured respect to her government abroad, as, by her tenderness and maternal affection

fection for her people, she maintained the most perfect serenity throughout her dominions. In nothing, however, did her conduct appear more wise and amiable, than in the care which she took for settling the succession, which she knew must be fixed, before she could hope to see her government firmly established. She therefore sent for her nephew, the young Duke of Holstein, who was the presumptive heir to the imperial crown, under the original establishment of Peter the Great. Having fixed upon her successor, her next object was to obtain for him a consort. On this occasion, Sophia Augusta Frederica (afterwards Catherine II.) the Princess of Anhalt-Zerbst was selected, when only fourteen years of age.* For this unexpected honour the young princess was chiefly indebted to the tender regard which the Empress Elizabeth always entertained for the memory of her uncle, who, at a former period, had been her lover.

On their marriage, the young duke and his bride were formally acknowledged, by her imperial majesty and the senate, as grand duke and duchess of Russia; the empress at the same time presenting them with the palace of Oranienbaum, as a summer residence.

The duchess, though she never loved, soon acquired the art of governing her husband, and even concealed his foibles, which otherwise would have been eminently

* The father of this astonishing female, who, on the throne of the czars, swayed a more absolute sceptre, and ruled over a greater extent of dominion, than any other contemporary sovereign, was glad to procure employment in the service of a king, whose house had but recently emerged from the electoral office; and she herself was scarcely distinguished from the crowd of dependents at the Prussian court.

conspicuous.

conspicuous. She at first imagined that she could reign only by his means, and therefore prudently determined to make him appear worthy of a throne. A period of eight years had elapsed since their marriage, and no issue appearing, much discontent began to prevail. Soon after this, however, the birth of a son and daughter put an end to apprehension, and gave fresh stability to the empire.

The grand duke and duchess gave themselves up to the enjoyment of their respective voluptuous and amatory pleasures, until the exposure of an attachment between the duchess and Count Poniatowski, afterwards king of Poland, produced an entire change in the system and conduct of the future empress. The apex of her ambition had formerly been to direct the councils of her husband, when he should become a sovereign; but she now determined, if possible. to obtain the crown for her son, and the regency for herself. The task was an herculean one; but, by the enterprising genius of the duchess, it would probably have been accomplished, had not a sudden and unexpected revolution in the ministry terminated her intrigues.

A gloomy interval now ensued; in which, while Peter, surrounded by his male and female favourites, consumed whole days and nights in intoxication, and forgot that he was a prince, the duchess soothed her anguish by study, and in retirement laid the foundation of her future greatness, and, in some measure, rendered herself worthy of a throne.

Such was their situation, when Elizabeth died in January, 1762. The grand duke at length ascended the throne, by the name of Peter III. the commencement of his reign wearing a peculiarly auspicious aspect.

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But his actions were grounded in error. He suddenly made peace with the king of Prussia, for whom he had ever shewn a marked predilection; commenced war against Denmark; and attempted, perhaps too forcibly, to reform a barbarous and fanatical clergy, whose power Peter I. had curbed, but whose persons he still affected to consider as sacred. To these false steps may be attributed the catastrophe of his short reign, which lasted only six months.

There were some few intervals in which this monarch appeared great, and even magnanimous; but unfortunately they were of short duration. To the honour of his memory, however, it should be mentioned, that, immediately after his accession, he threw open the state prisons; recalled a number of exiles from Siberia; limited the despotism of his officers; abridged his own power, by abolishing the secret council of chancery, and framed a memorable decree, enfranchising the nobles from compulsive service in the army, and allowing them to travel without the royal permission.

The failings of Peter escaped not the watchful eyes of his enemies. The lofty spirit of the empress triumphed over the imbecility of her husband, and she at length succeeded in removing him from a throne which he was incompetent to fill. His melancholy end, and the subsequent assassination of the unfortunate Ivan,* are well known, and will ever be recollected with horror.

The empress, on her assumption of the crown, had notified the event to all the courts of Europe, under

* Son to the Princess of Mecklenburg, vide p. 8.

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her new name of Catharine Alexiewna II. The leading events of her ambitious career are fresh in the recollection of the public. "Denmark," says a contemporary writer, "devoted to her will during the whole course of her reign; Sweden reduced to the necessity of courting her alliance; the old monarchy of France afraid to avert the destruction of its ancient ally; Great Britain obliged to yield in its demand for the restoration of Oczakow; Poland partitioned, and the lion's share reserved for herself; Turkey at her feet, and Constantinople waiting but for her nod to behold the Greek cross once more flying on its battlements—such is the grand outline of her splendid reign."

Still, however, we shudder at the murder of Peter and of Iwan; nor will posterity easily pardon the degradation of Stanislaus, or the massacres of Ismailow and of Praga.

It was on the 10th of November, 1797, that Catherine departed this life; and she was immediately succeeded by her son, the late Emperor Paul.

During the reign of this prince, which comprised a considerable period of the late contest with France, the formidable empire of Russia alternately formed a source of hope and fear to other nations. Actuated by the vacillating notions of a capricious monarch, it seemed to retire from one war only to engage in another; and the destinies of Russia, as well as those in some measure of the rest of Europe, seemed to depend upon the will of a madman. The perverseness which characterised his external policy, was no less conspicuous in all the measures of his domestic administration. The circulation of books was stopped, commerce was suspended, and civilization was at a stand.

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At length the extreme of despotism and impolicy engendered a conspiracy, which terminated in his death.

Although his general conduct was strongly tinctured with insanity, it is by no means certain that he was the domestic tyrant which he has been represented. On the contrary, Kotzebue, who appears to have been intimately acquainted with his character, asserts that he should fill a volume, were he to bring forward all the domestic incidents in which the Emperor Paul proved himself to be a *tender husband* and a *good father*. The same writer also pays the following pathetic tribute to his memory—"Peace be to the ashes of a man who committed acts of violence from mere hastiness of temper, but never to gratify his caprice; who, in whatever he did, imagined that he was doing an act of justice. A man, whose faults may be attributed, in a great measure, to the nature of his education, to the extraordinary events which distinguished the period of his reign, and to the character of the people who surrounded him! A man who might often have been mistaken, with regard to the *means* he employed to do good, but whose invariable aim was to be *good* and *just*; who scattered innumerable benefits around him, yet saw nothing but noxious plants spring up, whose blossoms pleased his eye, while their poisonous vapour tarnished and destroyed him."

On the 11th of March, 1801, the career of Paul was closed; and, early on the following morning, the accession of his son Alexander, the pupil of the great Catharine, was announced. The principal nobility had already paid him their homage in the chapel of the winter palace; and the people gave themselves up to joy, and to the free indulgence of those hopes which the

the known virtues of the young monarch so naturally inspired.

To assume, with tranquillity, the reins of an empire, stained with the blood of a father and of a grandfather; to ascend, with fortitude and resignation, a throne which so few princes had enjoyed with security, or resigned but by a violent death, required a combination of humanity, philosophy, and religion. But, educated by philosophers of the French school, whose names have become infamous in the revolutionary annals of France and Switzerland, how was this combination to be expected in the mind of Alexander? Its existence, however, must be considered as a proof, that genuine virtue is capable of resisting the seduction of factitious improvement, and that true genius is superior to the dazzling theories of a dangerous sophistry.

Alexander solemnly promised to tread in the steps of Catherine II. His first acts consisted principally in the abolition of the most odious decrees of Paul; and the whole of his measures were characterised by tolerance, benevolence, and wisdom. At the period when he was proclaimed emperor, terror presided at home, and a desolating war raged abroad. His subjects were slaves, his dominions were agitated, and his allies were defeated. In the short space of three months peace had been concluded, the fetters of his subjects, which it would have been impolitic to break, were lightened, and the losses of his allies were repaired. He had no enemy, but counted as many friends as nations. Tyranny was banished from his councils, and despotism from his government. He allowed every one to dress according to his own fancy; relieved the

inhabitants of the capital from the troublesome duty of alighting from their carriages at the approach of any of the imperial family; dismissed the court advocate, who was universally and justly detested; abolished the secret inquisition, that had become the scourge of the country; restored the senate to its former authority; set at liberty the state prisoners in the fortress, and recalled the unjustly exiled from all climates.

In the month of September, of the same year in which he ascended the throne, the emperor, accompanied by his royal consort, proceeded to Moscow, the ancient capital of the empire, where their coronation was performed with the utmost splendour and solemnity.* On this occasion, thirty thousand persons were entertained at dinner at Moscow. The wine flowed from fountains; and the happy event was followed by a proclamation, ordering the suppression of the recruiting service during the remainder of the year; the remission of the fines not collected; and the release of the insolvent debtors of the crown.

By his concern for religious toleration, Alexander has much endeared himself to his subjects at large. Among other traits, which evince his benevolence of heart, may be mentioned his establishment of an institution for meliorating the condition of the poor in St. Petersburgh. The following letter, written by him in 1802, to the president of the commission creat-

* The Archbishop Platon, who officiated at the coronation, was 105 years of age, a man of distinguished talents, and had consecrated three sovereigns of Russia. His speech on the occasion, which was remarkable for its firmness and good sense, was circulated by the emperor with great profusion.

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ed for that purpose, is equally a proof of a philanthropic disposition, and of a sagacious mind:—

"Mr. Chamberlain Wittostoff, the manner in which alms are distributed to the poor only serves to increase their number. The old man, broken down with years, does not find his repose assured; the youth, pining with misery, is not restored to health; and the infant, who might become the support of the state, is not rescued from death or vice. The idle and importunate beggar often seizes from the hand of beneficence what was destined for the father of a family, overwhelmed with despair, and groaning on his couch. Beneficence does not consist in being moved by the often deceitful aspect of distress, but in visiting the unfortunate at their places of residence; in those abodes of affliction and tears, we must seek to mitigate their misfortunes by words of consolation, by salutary advice, in short, by every physical and moral means. In this true charity consists. The possibility of accomplishing this meritorious work is demonstrated by the experience of several enlightened people, particularly of Hamburgh, where a society of virtuous and peaceable citizens, without any view of personal interest, and without expectation of reward, have, for the consolation of suffering humanity, for fifteen years acquitted themselves of the sacred duty of relieving their neighbours in the most useful and most efficacious manner.

"Wishing to follow this example, I shall name a commission, composed of three members, who will name unanimously a fourth; the four will name a fifth, and so on to nine; the nine members will name others to the number of seventeen. You will lay your

plan before that commission, in order that it may examine in what points, and how it is to be carried into execution. To shew what strong claims the victims of misfortune have on my heart, I take under my immediate and particular protection, not only the benevolent society establishing in this capital, but all those, which, after its example, will undoubtedly be formed for the relief of our neighbours, in a nation so dear to me, on which nature has bestowed so many treasures, and which it has gifted with all the virtues, and particularly with an all-celestial generosity. I entrust to your especial care the administration of this public charity, that you may attend to it, and communicate to me directly all the reports which relate to the institution."

The anecdotes which are related of Alexander, during his subsequent journey to Memel, do him honour as a man and as a sovereign. At his levees and entertainments he received with equal amenity the respectable citizens and the nobles. At the respective places through which he passed, he gave orders that, if the dishes for which he might ask were not at hand, no trouble should be taken to procure them, but that others should be substituted. He travelled with a very small retinue; and, the endeavours which he uniformly evinced to diminish taxes, to meliorate the condition of the peasants,* to facilitate commerce, and to diffuse knowledge throughout his dominions, held

* Shortly after his accession, he ordered a loan of 25,000 roubles, free of interest, for thirty years, to be granted for the immediate relief of the inhabitants of the town of Biclew, of which 458 houses had been destroyed by fire.

forth

fish a prospect of happiness to the Russians, hitherto unknown.

It has been remarked, that a dutiful and respectful son makes always a good husband, a tender parent, and an affectionate brother. Alexander was the best of sons; he is the best of husbands, of fathers, and of brothers, as well as of sovereigns. To see him in private, in the midst of his family, is as pleasing, as it is edifying to approach him in public, surrounded by his subjects, doing justice, distributing favours, relieving distress, and encouraging virtue. As the empress is his only wife, the Russian nation is his only mistress; and his subjects belong as much to his family, as his brothers, sisters, or children.

The following is the general routine mode in which he passes his time:—He rises at six, and transacts business in the cabinet till about ten, when he has a military levee till twelve. From that hour till two, when dinner is served, he mostly walks about with the empress. Shortly after three he rises from table, and dispatches business till five. From five till eight in the evening, concerts are given, in which the emperor himself sometimes bears a part. The imperial family go to supper, a little after eight; and, as soon as the clock strikes ten, the officers in waiting withdraw, and the emperor retires to rest. As noble and dignified in his manners, as simple and becoming in his conduct, he commands the admiration of strangers as much as he possesses the adoration of his subjects.

Mr. Carr, in his "*Northern Summer*," recently published, presents us with the following portrait of this amiable sovereign:

"The present Emperor Alexander is about twenty-nine

nine years of age, his face is full, very fair, and his complexion pale; his eyes blue, and expressive of that beneficent mildness which is one of the prominent features of his character. His person is tall, lusty, and well proportioned; but, being a little deaf, to facilitate his hearing, he stoops: his deportment is condescending yet dignified. In the discharge of his august duties he displays great activity and acuteness, but without shew and bustle: the leading features of his mind are sound discretion and humanity, qualities which cannot fail to render an empire flourishing and a people happy! He is so much an enemy to parade, that he is frequently seen wrapped up in his regimental cloak, riding about the capital alone, upon a little common droshka: in this manner he has been known to administer to the wants of the poor. It is his wish, if he should be recognised in this state of privacy, that no one will take off their hats; but the graciousness of this desire only puts the heart in the hand as it uncovers the head. I have many times seen him in a chariot, perfectly plain, of a dark olive, drawn by four horses, driven by a bearded coachman, a common little postilion, and attended by a single footman. Soldiers are always upon the look out for him, to give timely notice to the guard of his approach; without this precaution it would be impossible, amidst the croud of carriages which is to be seen in the residence, to pay him the honour due to his rank. The emperor is very much attached to the English, numbers of whom have settled in the empire, and have formed, under the auspices of the government, a sort of colony. The emperor has often been heard to say, that "the man within whose reach heaven has placed the great-

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est materials for making life happy, was, in his opinion, an *English country gentleman!*"

From Mr. Carr we also learn, that the face of the reigning empress is very sweet and expressive; that her person is slight, but very elegant, and of the usual height of her sex; that she is remarkably amiable, and diffident, even to shyness; that her mind is highly cultivated, and her manners soft, gracious, and fascinating; and that the emperor and empress have no family, though they were united at an extraordinary early age, from a wish of Catharine to contemplate as many of her posterity, who were destined to succeed to the throne, as she could before she died.

Alexander's natural genius has been highly cultivated by a brilliant education, and improved by extensive reading. He speaks most of the European languages, and is enthusiastic in his admiration of the arts.

In the choice of his counsellors, he has displayed a judgment unbiassed by partiality, and influenced only by a desire to unite the liberty of the subject with the security of the throne; to make the Russians at once free and loyal; to set limits to his own hereditary authority, by annihilating hereditary bondage; and to establish freedom in the north of Europe, while an upstart tyrant dictates in the south. His chancellor, Count Woronzoff, an enlightened philanthropist and able statesman, executes with perseverance and vigour the liberal plans which are projected by the emperor, and proves himself worthy to occupy the high station to which he has been called by his sovereign.

From the commencement of his reign, the Emperor Alexander has evinced a marked partiality for the English,

THE TAMBOV ... MAHAL

English, (with whose language, character, and manners, he is perfectly acquainted), as the splendid presents which he has made to a number of individuals sufficiently testify.* Impressed with this idea of his attachment to England, its government, and inhabitants, many have felt a degree of surprise, that he should so long have holden back in the present content; a contest of so much importance, not to Britain alone, but to every power in Europe. But it should be recollected, that each state has a policy of its own, independently of that of other states; and that, equally jealous of the continental power of France, and of the maritime ascendancy of England, it is esteemed true Russian policy, by the most respected statesmen at St. Petersburgh, to suffer those two powers to waste their strength, in the hope of profiting by their decline. To enquire into the justice of this policy would be foreign from our present purpose; but it should also be recollected, that Alexander is the professed pupil of Catharine; that Catharine was uniformly adverse to the idea of Russia interfering at all in a war between France and England; that, notwithstanding the just hatred of Marcoff and his friends against Buonaparte, and the partiality of Woronzoff and his adherents to England, the party which formed the councils of Catharine is firmly compacted, and possesses such a domineering influence in the senate, that, whatever might be the private wishes of Alexander, it would not be safe for

* Soon after his accession, he sent over to this country, as a present to Mr. Addington, a snuff-box set with brilliants, and ornamented with his Majesty's portrait; the value of which was estimated at 1000 guineas. Various other presents have also been received by literary men, artists, &c.

him,

him to oppose the general sentiment, which, until lately, has most certainly been pacific. Of this, the recent negociations furnish conclusive evidence. From the abrupt termination, however, of Novozilzoff's mission, and from the formidable preparations which are now making in every part of the Russian empire, it appears that that nation—taking the term in its comprehensive sense—has felt itself bitterly insulted, and that it will attempt some grand stroke in support of the general interests of Europe, and to crush the unprincipled usurper, who, by perfidy and slaughter, has succeeded in founding a new dynasty in France. Alexander has hitherto acted as the father of his people; and we are convinced that, whatever may be the final issue of events, his conduct will be that of a monarch, anxious for the honour and glory of his nation, and for the general welfare of mankind.

HIS LATE ROYAL HIGHNESS

WILLIAM HENRY DUKE OF GLOUCESTER.

"When I see kings lying by those who deposed them; when "I consider rival wits placed side by side; or the holy men that "divided the world with their contests and disputes, I reflect "with sorrow and astonishment on the little competitions and de- "bates of mankind; when I read the several dates of the tombs, "of some that died yesterday, and some six hundred years ago, "I consider that great day when we shall all of us be cotempo- "raries, and make our appearance together."

ADDISON.

PRINCES appear to be so far removed beyond the sphere of common action, that, till we hear of their death, we scarcely seem to regard them as beings, similarly organised with ourselves. But the unceremonious tyrant, to whom all are subject, pays no deference to royalty. His potent arm removes all barriers, levels all distinctions.

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
"And all that beauty, all that wealth, e'er gave,
"Await alike the inevitable hour:
"The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

We have been naturally led to these reflections, in contemplating the decease of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester.

Perhaps it may be deemed a labour of supererogation to state, that the illustrious house of Brunswick, of whom this prince was a member, traces its origin to a very remote antiquity, in the several lines of Este, of the Guelphs, of Billing, and of Whitekind the Great, all of which became united in the person of Henry Leo. As, however, the sketch would be incomplete without this statement, we must be pardoned for trespassing a few moments on the leisure of those who may happen to be skilled in heraldic science.

The house of Este, which is the male line, derives its origin from the Actii, a noble Roman family in the time of Tarquinius Priscus. This family retired from Rome during its republican government, settled themselves at Este, a city in that part of Italy which is now called Venetian Lombardy, and assumed the name of their place of residence. This line continued through various successions to Hugo III. who was margrave of Este, Milan, Genoa, and Tuscany. Hugo died in 1046, and was succeeded by his son, Azo III. who married the daughter and heiress of Guelpho III. duke of lower Bavaria. The line of the Guelphs derives itself from the Scythians, who first erected a kingdom on the borders of Germany, near the German sea. Marcomir, the first king of this line, took possession of that country now called West Friesland, Gueldres, and Holland, at a very early period; and the succession continued, through a long line, to Henry IV. duke of Bavaria, who left one son, Henry Leo, in whom, by the marriage of his grandfather with Wulfhildis, of Saxony, and of his father, with Gertrudia, daughter of the Emperor Lotharius, the lines of Billing and Whitekind became blended with

those of the house of Este, and of the Guelphs. The line of Billing is traced from Hermannus Billing, the son of Billing, who was created Duke of Saxony, in the year 960. His last male descendant dying in 1106, without any male issue, his daughter Wulfhildis became sole heiress to the duchy of Saxony, and was married to Henry III. Duke of Bavaria. Henry Leo, of the line of Whitekind, a grandson from this marriage, obtained from the Emperor Barbarossa, about the year 1156, in addition to his own dominion, the city and county of Hanover, with other large possessions. As his second wife, he espoused Matilda, the eldest daughter of Henry II. of England, from which marriage descended the family of Brunswick.

Thus may be traced downwards the immediate ancestors of William Henry, the son of Frederick Lewis, late Prince of Wales, and of Augusta, daughter of Frederick II. Duke of Saxe Gotha.

He was the fifth child, and was born on the 25th of November, 1743. His education was of course appropriate to a prince of the blood, and such as, in future life, obtained him the distinction which is due to a polite scholar and an accomplished gentleman.* On the 17th of November, 1764, a few days before he was of full age, his Majesty was pleased to grant to him and his heirs male the dignity of a duke of the kingdom of Great Britain, and of an earl of the kingdom of Ireland, by the name, style, and title, of Duke of Gloucester and Edinburgh, and Earl of Connaught. He was admitted into the privy council on the 19th

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* His Royal Highness was elected a knight of the most noble order of the garter, and installed, in 1762; soon after which he was appointed ranger of Hampton Court Park.

of

of December following; and, on the 10th of January, 1765, he took his seat in the house of peers. He was also appointed colonel of the 15th regiment of foot.

On the 6th of September, in the following year, his Royal Highness was united, in marriage, to Maria, Countess Dowager of Waldegrave, daughter of the late Hon. Sir Edward Walpole, K. B.* This event is understood to have given great offence to his Majesty. The late duke of Cumberland also married, in 1771, under nearly similar circumstances; and these marriages produced the memorable statute 12 Geo. III. for rendering all such marriages, without the consent of his Majesty and the privy council, null and void. On the death of his brother, however, the late Duke of York, which took place in the autumn of 1767, he obtained a grant of the custody of the lodge and walks in Cranbourn Chace, in Windsor Forest. In 1768 he was constituted major-general and colonel of the 3d regiment of foot guards. In 1770 he was promoted to the rank of major-general, and to the command of the 1st regiment of foot-guards. In 1771, he was appointed warden and keeper of the New Forest; in the following year he was advanced to the rank of general of his Majesty's forces, and died senior field marshal.

On the 29th of May, 1773, his first, and only surviving daughter, Sophia Matilda, was born; and, on the 24th of June, 1774, Carolina Augusta Maria; who died on the 14th of March, 1775, and was buried in St. George's chapel, Windsor, where the remains of his Royal Highness have since been deposited.

The Duke's constitution was naturally very delicate,

* The ceremony was performed at her ladyship's house in Pall-Mall, by the Rev. Robert Morton, her domestic chaplain.

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and, at an early period of life, he found it expedient to leave his native country for the milder air of Italy. He resided for several years at Rome, where his son, Prince William Frederick, now Duke of Gloucester, was born. This event took place on the 15th of January, 1776. Of late, he found himself sufficiently recovered to be able to bear the climate of England; yet his health was always in a very precarious state, and, for many years previously to his decease, he scarcely knew a day's uninterrupted enjoyment of that invaluable blessing.

After an illness of seven weeks, about half past eight o'clock, on the evening of Sunday, August the 25th, his Royal Highness breathed his last at Gloucester House. About noon, he had received the sacrament, which was administered by the Rev. Mr. Duval. The duchess and his children communicated with him. Finding his end approaching, the Duke beckoned to his medical attendant, Mr. Charlton, who immediately leaned on the bed. In a low tone, his powers of articulation being nearly exhausted, he said it was his dying request that his body might not be embalmed; and this wish he repeated to Prince William, who promised that it should be complied with.

On the succeeding morning, his physicians, Drs. Vaughan, Bayley, Heywood, and Charlton, attended to examine the body; when it was ascertained that, in addition to the stone, there was a very great decay of the liver. There was besides a gradual decay of the intestines, which latterly had affected his lungs so severely, that he could not speak without extreme pain and difficulty. His death is thought to have been accelerated by a severe cold which he caught at a late

review

review on Wimbledon common, when his clothes were completely wetted through.

It was at first expected and understood, that his Royal Highness's remains would be deposited in Henry VII. chapel, Westminster. Preparations were indeed made for the occasion; but, the Duke having expressed a wish to be interred by the side of his daughter Carolina, in St. George's chapel, Windsor, his Majesty complied with his desire, and arrangements were made accordingly.

From two to ten o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, September the 3d, Gloucester House was thrown open for the admission of the public, to see the body lie in state. The pressure at the moment of opening the doors was excessive. The horse and foot guards, stationed to preserve order, had not the least difficult task to perform. The court-yard before the house, and the steps and hall-door, were divided by a temporary railing, for persons to enter on one side and go out on the other, which prevented confusion; but, though every precaution was taken, the pressure was so very great, that, in attempting to obtain admission, many persons were severely bruised. The different rooms were lighted with wax tapers. The coffin was placed on a stand, under a black canopy, covered, except at the extremity, with a black velvet pall. On it was placed a black velvet cushion, bearing the coronet. The escutcheons were hung below. At the foot of the coffin a yeoman of the guards was stationed; two mutes, dressed in black, stood one at each side of the foot of the coffin, each having a hand on it; and two more sat, one at each side of the head. Tapers, of a very large size, were burning at some

 distance,

distance, at either side of the coffin; the whole exhibiting an awful and impressive sight.

The next day, the Duke's remains were removed from Gloucester House for interment. Before eight o'clock, the windows in Grosvenor-street, Park-lane, and the end of Piccadilly next the turnpike, were filled with persons dressed in deep mourning. Before ten, the avenues to Park-lane were completely filled. At that hour the great bell at St. Paul's cathedral began tolling, and continued, with solemn pauses, till eleven. The bells of several of the churches in Westminster also tolled. The second battalion of the 1st regiment of guards were on duty at seven. The Duke of Gloucester's volunteers, commanded by Lord Chetwynd, took up their ground next to the guards, in the same order, officers with crape, colours surmounted with crape, and the drums muffled, and after them the St. Clement's *corps*. About eleven the coffin was placed in the hearse, and the procession began to move; the music playing the dead march in Saul, and the guards presenting arms as it passed along. The following was the order of the procession:—

1. Mr. France, the undertaker, and five mutes on horseback.
2. The party of the 14th light dragoons, two and two.
3. Mourning coach, with six footmen in state liveries.
4. Ditto, four officers of the household.
5. Ditto, four pages.
6. Ditto, four grooms.
7. Ditto, gentlemen porters.
8. Ditto, ditto.
9. Ditto, four chaplains.
10. Ditto, the Duke's aid-de-camp, and a herald at arms.
11. Ditto, four physicians.
12. Party of light horse.

13. Mutes.

13. Mutes.

14. Hearse, with the body, drawn by six horses, and attended by a party of light horse, two and two.

15. State coach, with Mr. Vincent, his secretary, with the ducal crown and cushion; three footmen in state liveries.

16. Duke of York's carriage, with six greys; three servants in rich state liveries.

17. Duke of Clarence's coach, drawn by six bay horses; two footmen in state liveries.

18 and 19. The Duke of Kent, and present Duke of Gloucester's carriages, with two footmen, each in state liveries.

20. Duke of Gloucester's volunteers, drums muffled, beating the dead march, followed by the whole corps, two and two, with arms reversed.

21. Prince William of Gloucester's volunteers, in close order.

At Knightsbridge, and thence the whole of the way to Windsor, the procession proceeded with a degree of rapidity but ill according with the solemnity of the occasion. The volunteers accompanied it to Kensington; and, at Hammersmith, it was joined by a detachment of the 1st regiment of guards, who were relieved at Hounslow by another party of the same battalion.

The road was crowded in every part; every window, and every house-top, were equally thronged; notwithstanding which, no accident is known to have happened.

About five o'clock the procession passed the race-course, at Egham, just as some of the horses were preparing for a heat. Had the Colnbrook road—the more general way to Windsor—been taken, instead of that through Staines and Egham, this indecorous incident would have been avoided. About half past five the procession arrived at Windsor, and immediately proceeded to the castle, through the lower court, where

it was received by the royal horse-guards blue, dismounted, and the Windsor volunteers. The people assembled were admitted into the queen's presence chamber, the walls of which were hung, and the floor covered, with black cloth, and lighted up with twenty-four wax-lights, in silver sconces; and two chandeliers, with ten lights each. The coffin, covered with a black velvet pall, adorned with eight escutcheons, was placed, with the royal ducal coronet and cushion, on a bier, under the state canopy, with five large wax-lights, in massy silver candlesticks, on each side. Two mutes were placed at the head, and two at the feet, of the corpse. From the great gates of the palace, by the south door of St. George's chapel, the military, consisting of the royal horse-guards and Windsor volunteers, were placed, to form a line for the procession. Every fourth man held a torch. Soon after nine o'clock—the corpse having laid in state till that time—the procession began to move from the castle to St. George's chapel, in the following order:—

A file of grenadiers, of foot guards.
Kettle drums and trumpets muffled.
Twenty-one attendants of the chief mourner, in their state liveries.
Pages of his late Royal Highness.
Physicians.
Chaplains.
Equerries.
Secretary.
Comptroller of his Royal Highness's household. | Treasurer of his Royal Highness's household.
A herald at arms.
The lord chamberlain.
The coronet, upon a black velvet cushion, borne by a herald at arms.

The

Foot guards, supporters, two gentlemen of his late Royal Highness's household.	**The Body,** Covered with a black velvet pall, adorned with eight escutcheons of his late Royal Highness's arms, under a canopy of black velvet, borne by eight general officers.	Foot guards, supporters, two gentlemen of his late Royal Highness's household.
Gentleman usher.	Garter principal king at arms, by his deputy.	Gentleman usher.

The chief mourner,
His Highness PRINCE WILLIAM FREDERICK,
in a long black cloak with the collar of the order of the garter, his train borne by a gentleman of his household.
A gentleman usher.
Grooms of his late Royal Highness's bed-chamber.

At the south door, the procession was met by the choristers, minor canons, senior canons, and the dean, the juniors going first. They fell in immediately after the herald at arms, who preceded the lord chamberlain, and passed down the south aisle, up the nave, into the choir, the choristers, each holding a wax-light, singing Dr. Croft's funeral service. The body was then placed upon trussels, the head towards the altar, the coronet and cushion being laid upon the coffin, and the canopy held over it, whilst the dean of Windsor read the funeral service. The present Duke of Gloucester, as chief mourner, sat on a chair placed at the head of the coffin, the supporters of the pall standing round the body. The part of the service before the interment having been read, the corpse was deposited in the vault. The dean then proceeded with the office of burial; which being ended, the deputy of garter king at arms proclaimed his late Royal Highness's

ness's style, and thus concluded the ceremony. The present duke then retired privately to the castle, with his attendants; and, at two o'clock on the following day, returned to Gloucester House.

During the whole of the ceremony, this amiable young prince evinced the most poignant grief. Whilst the body was depositing in the vault, he retired to the dean's stall, against which he for some time leaned, apparently scarcely able to stand. From the commencement, to the close of the ceremony, universal sympathy prevailed; every one present appearing deeply moved at a spectacle so solemn, grand, and truly affecting.

In addition to the appointments before enumerated, the late Duke was chancellor of the university of Dublin, and president of the London infirmary. His Royal Highness was distinguished more by equanimity than by splendid or shewy talents; engaging in his manners, he acquired the love of those who had access to his person; respectful to his sovereign, cordial and affable to his friends, generous and condescending to his inferiors, he deservedly enjoyed the confidence of the former, and the unaffected esteem and regard of the latter. The meekness of his disposition influenced every shade in his character. He was the liberal supporter of every institution calculated to promote the interests of society; but the modest reserve and placid serenity of his conduct kept many instances of his generosity out of public view. His Royal Highness never appeared as a public character. He at all times avoided even the remotest interference in the intrigues of parties, and the agitation of political topics; thus affording an indisputable proof of his affection as a brother,

brother, and of his loyal and respectful attachment as a subject. The only instance, we believe, in which his conduct was ever displeasing to his Majesty, was on the occasion of his marriage. Reasons of state, and court etiquette, have undoubtedly restrained the impulse of his Majesty's feelings, with respect to the distinguished object of the Duke's choice; but the illustrious descendants of his Royal Highness have uniformly experienced the affection due to their consanguinity, and all the attention which their rank and virtues claim.

HENRY DUNDAS,

LORD VISCOUNT MELVILLE.

WE are neither among those, who are disposed to regard Lord Melville as one of the most immaculate characters of the age; nor those, who consider him as a colossal and unprincipled peculator, rioting in the plunder of his country; who would strain every nerve in vindication of his assumed innocence; or sacrifice every thing that is dear and honourable to man, in their endeavours to overwhelm him in infamy and disgrace.

To render common justice to his lordship's political life, would require the exertion of no common pen, and would demand a more extensive space than our circumscribed limits could allot. His life, indeed, is best read in the parliamentary annals of Britain; and we trust that we shall be excused if, in the present instance, we do little more than point the attention of the reader to the most prominent events which have distinguished his career.

The Dundas family, though perfectly *naturalized* on the other side of the Tweed, is of English extraction, the lineal ancestor having retired into Scotland at the period of the Norman invasion. Henry Dundas, now Lord Melville, is descended from a younger branch of the family (the Dundasses of Arniston,) long eminent among the petty barons of Lothian. He was born,

born, we believe, about the year 1740; and, being a younger son, by a second marriage, he was destined, not only to erect the superstructure, but to lay the foundation of his future fortune. Of the liberal professions, the law seemed to court his election, as holding forth the fairest prospect of emolument and fame. His immediate ancestors had been distinguished, during the greater part of the seventeenth century, as the most able advocates at the Scottish bar, and had attained the highest honours which the law is capable of bestowing. His father, even at an early period of his forensic career, had been pronounced the superior of all his competitors; and his eldest brother, after shining as the first lawyer at the bar, was exalted to the bench, amidst the acclamations of general applause. The august dignity, the force and clearness of argument, with which he administered justice for a long series of years, as the head of the supreme civil court of Scotland, are yet fresh in recollection.

With such bright examples before him, Henry did not hesitate in his choice; but, after the usual studies, and at an earlier age than usual, he became a member of the class of advocates, at Edinburgh. Mr. Dundas, in his boyish studies, had given strong indications of future eminence; and the body, of which he was now become a member, having a large well-chosen library, to which there was every facility of access, his taste for general literature was much improved. In due time he was called to the bar; and, by a combination of talent and assiduity, rapidly acquired distinction among the junior advocates. We are told that, in compliance with the custom of the Scottish lawyers, he attempted to distinguish himself,

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by adopting the popular eloquence of the general assembly of the church of Scotland, of which he became a member; and that, with very flattering success, he declaimed on the subject of patronage; disputed about forms and precedents; and strove, sometimes to allay, sometimes to excite, those storms, to which even that venerable body is now and then subject.

The *popular* eloquence of Scotland and of England must, doubtless, be very different; for, long as Lord Melville has occupied a seat in the British senate; much as he has distinguished himself as a speaker; and much as the *matter* of many of his speeches has been admired, his *enunciation*, we believe, has never acquired *popularity* on this side of the water.*

Mr. Dundas's family, however, gave him sufficient opportunities for the display of his abilities at the bar; and the emoluments of his profession afforded him ample means of enjoying all the pleasures which the northern metropolis afforded. This was a consideration of some importance to our young lawyer; for he was a lover of convivial pleasures; and, at the shrine of the Páphian goddess, was among the most ardent of her worshippers. In the intercourse of private life,

* The late Earl of Rosslin, on his first coming to London, to prepare himself for the English bar, wisely regarded accent and pronunciation as of so much importance, that he secluded himself entirely from the society of his countrymen; whereas in most of the Scots, residing in this metropolis, their constant and almost exclusive association together in their convivial hours, occasions an inveterate continuation of their own dialect, as distinguishable as that of the Jews, and proceeding from the same cause. The most obvious means of correcting this defect, would be to employ only Englishmen as teachers of the English language in Scotland.

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he was considered—and ever has been considered—as truly amiable; and, if he sometimes sunk into dissipation, his spirit was uniformly superior to the mean and ungenerous vices.

A fortunate marriage with the heiress of Melville now formed an important epoch in Mr. Dundas's life. This lady was the daughter of Mr. Rennier, a shipbuilder, who was supposed to have amassed a fortune of between two and three hundred thousand pounds; one third of which has been mentioned as her marriage portion. He now became a considerable landholder, and, as wealth generates wealth, his success at the bar augmented daily. His pleading, if not graceful, was animated and forcible; and his apparent earnestness excited a general sentiment in his favour. Among the first admirers of his talents may be mentioned the late Lord Kaimes, who dedicated to him his excellent work entitled *Principles of Equity*; and on that occasion anticipated his future success.

Mr. Dundas now rapidly attained the rank of one of the first lawyers at the Scottish bar; his own merits, added to the influence of his family, soon recommended him to the notice of the crown; and, in a short time, he had the honour of being appointed lord advocate for Scotland; an office for which his genius and acquirements were admirably fitted.

Prescription seems to have entitled the lord advocates of Scotland to a seat in the British parliament; and Mr. Dundas accordingly took his seat at the back of the treasury bench.* At the period of his senatorial entré

* He was first elected a member of the house of commons in the year 1774, for Edinburghshire, which he continued to represent

entré the nation was engaged in that unhappy conflict, which terminated in the separation of the American colonies from the mother country; the disputes running strong between the supporters of the royal prerogative, and those who were fearful lest the subjugation of America should have more than a local effect. Mr. Dundas was here placed in a trying situation. His pronunciation and phraseology exhibited such a redundancy of northern peculiarities, that his speeches excited an uncommon portion of ridicule. Nor were his adversaries mere common men, who might be overthrown at pleasure. He had to oppose the impetuous thunder of Burke, seconded by the splendid and classic eloquence of Fox, then in the full vigour of youthful imagination. Saville, Barré, and Dunning, were also his antagonists. But the confidence of the Lord Advocate was not to be abashed, even by such obsthcles as these; he has, through life, been remarked for possessing an unusual *power of face*; and perhaps Lord North might long have searched in vain for an assistant who would have been so useful in the discharge of his duties. His education, and practice as a lawyer, had tolerably well qualified him for legislative business; with the particular forms of which, by indefatigable industry and perseverance, he soon became fully acquainted. This general knowledge of business, joined with an almost unparalleled confidence, and a mind capable of every state artifice, soon obtained him a high rank on the political scale.

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sent till 1782, when he was chosen for Newton, Hants. In 1784, he was returned again for Edinburghshire, and, in 1790, for the city of Edinburgh, for which he continued until he was created a peer, under the title of Lord Viscount Melville, in 1804.

During

During the administration of Lord North, Mr. Dundas took a very active part in the house, supporting the American war upon every occasion of debate; and in so bold, energetic, and spirited a manner, as frequently to involve himself in the most violent personal altercations with the leaders of opposition. Among other busines that was agitated about this period, the affairs of India attracted much of the public attention. Mr. Dundas, with a perspicacity almost peculiar to himself, instantaneously, as it were, penetrated the intricate mazes of oriental intrigue. He was convinced that his knowledge might be turned to advantage; and, the enormities of certain characters during their residence in India seeming to call for public investigation, he stood forward as the accuser of the late Sir Thomas Rumbold, the quondam governor of Madras. The minister had also moved for a secret committee to enquire into the causes of the war in the Carnatic, and of the unfavourable condition of the British possessions in those parts. Of this committee, Mr. Dundas was appointed the chairman; and, by his talent for detail, he unravelled, with apparent ease, a complication of difficult concerns. These researches fully qualified him for displaying an accurate knowledge of the governments, resources, and revenues, of the different settlements of the east.

The administration of Lord North, which had long tottered to its basis, at length fell; the Rockingham party succeeded to power; and, as the American war had become almost universally odious, a general peace was speedily settled. Mr. Dundas had adhered to his patron as long as adherence had been practicable or

 useful;

useful; but, by the dissolution of the short-lived Rockingham administration, he found himself a free man. *The world was all before him, where to choose.* Fortunately for him, the son of the illustrious Chatham was rapidly rising into notice. All admired the powers of that extraordinary young man; but Mr. Dundas, sooner than any other, perceived that they were infinitely beyond the general conception. It is not, perhaps, asserting too much, that the penetrating sagacity of the northern statesman first comprehended and estimated the character of Mr. Pitt.

In the debates which took place, relative to the notorious coalition between Fox and Lord North, Mr. Dundas bore an active part; and saw, with increasing satisfaction, that his young friend was capable of maintaining his ground with the utmost firmness. The subject of this memoir has been charged with instability; but, however his enemies may consider him to have deviated from the path of rectitude, in the immense field of politics, his private and personal attachments reflect high credit on the firmness and constancy of his affections. Indeed, since the year 1782, he and Mr. Pitt may be considered as inseparable.

With little other assistance than that of Dundas, Mr. Pitt made a formidable stand against the celebrated India bill of Mr. Fox, which Burke had affected to contemplate with rapture. Pitt, against a formidable host of adversaries, stood forward as the champion of private rights, and of the public interests of his country: while Mr. Dundas, in a strain of direct and close reasoning, treated the bill as a measure that was calculated to raise a power in opposition to that

of

of the crown, a sort of *imperium in imperio*. The bill, it must be recollected, passed through the commons; but the opposition of Pitt and Dundas had excited a spirit of enquiry; and, before it came to the lords, there had been time to examine and compare the arguments of its supporters and opponents. The result of the investigation was, that the bill was thrown out. This led to the dismissal of the coalition ministry, and to the subsequent investiture with power of the men who had opposed it.

One of the first measures of Mr. Pitt's administration, was that of preparing an India bill, as a substitute for that which had been proposed by Mr. Fox. It had been considered, that the latter would have been an infringement of private right, and a deterioration of public benefit; that it would not only have deprived the East-India Company of the management of their territorial concerns, but of their commercial ones. Mr. Pitt's Bill, in the formation of which Mr. Dundas is supposed to have had the principal share, took from the company the management of their territorial possessions, in which the alledged abuses had been committed, and which had not been included in their charters; but left them the full control of their commercial concerns, in which no abuses were known to have been committed, and which were the essential subjects of their respective charters. By this bill, a board of control was formed, of which Mr. Dundas was appointed the president. His services were also rewarded with the treasurership of the navy, and with a seat in the cabinet-council.

Shortly after his appointment to the treasurership of

of the navy, Mr. Dundas procured an act to be passed, to prevent the passing of forged instruments, and causing all wills and powers of attorney to be signed by the port-officers, whose signatures are known at the navy office. He also introduced a bill, which, by its humane tendency, has been of essential service in obtaining men for the navy. By this act, every seaman is enabled to transmit a certain portion of his pay to his family, while on service.

With the business of the navy, and of India, his attention was fully occupied. Every succeeding year produced an accession of power and patronage. His situation, as president of the board of control, gave him great interest with the East-India company; his influence extended to the remotest corners of Scotland; and numbers of young men, particularly those "*frae the north*," who looked up to him for promotion, were appointed to places of emolument and trust, both at home and abroad. Mr. Dundas, too, on whom the management of the affairs of Scotland devolved, had the credit of producing a more immediate connexion between the representatives of that country, than had before subsisted. The principal portion of his studies however, was directed to the affairs of India. His annual budgets were the offspring of industrious attention, and his statements were distinguished for their minuteness and circumspection.

At the period of the French revolution, the face of Europe was changed, and a new system of politics was requisite to be devised. If any praise be due to boldness of invention, to promptness and vigour of execution, to wide extension of plans, and to firmness and per-

perseverance of conduct, the administration, of which Mr. Dundas then formed a conspicuous part, has an unquestionable claim to the gratitude of the nation. The object was, not to support any particular branch of the constitution, but to prevent the whole tree, king, lords, and commons, all the constituted authorities, order, religion, every constituent of public and private happiness, from being destroyed. The general principle held out by administration was, *Let us rally round our king and constitution!* In this determination the greatest part of the country joined. Men of the most distinguished abilities, who had been long in opposition to ministry, sacrificed every party view in support of the common cause—a cause so dear to all who were entitled to the honourable appellation of Britons. Even the whig club divided, and part of its members came over to the treasury side. Never will it be forgotten, when, on the evening of the 4th of March, 1790, after Mr. Sheridan had moved for a committee to enquire into the seditious practices alledged to exist in the country, when the illustrious Burke started from his seat, ran towards the treasury-bench, and, having reached the middle of the floor, surveying his former colleagues with an air of indignation, exclaimed, *I quit the camp! I quit the camp!* and seated himself by the side of his former adversaries!

At this critical epoch Mr. Dundas had the high honour of standing foremost in the ranks of those who nobly supported the British constitution, against the daring efforts of the *soi-disant* friends of liberty. To his exertions was the country indebted for the introduction of the Duke of Portland, and Lord Spencer, into

into the cabinet. * Thus strengthened, the ministry smiled contempt on the attacks of opposition; and never, till nearly the close of the war, was their power and influence greater than at this period.

During the whole of the late contest, Mr. Dundas proved a formidable assailant of jacobinical principles; and, to the perseverance of him and his colleagues may be chiefly attributed their suppression.

Peace having become necessary, state policy required a change of administration; and Mr. Dundas, in common with his friends, retired on the pretext—for events have proved that it was a mere pretext, on the part of several, if not all, of the then ministry—that it was impossible for them to fulfil the engagements which had been made with the Irish catholics at the time of the union.

It is worthy of remark, that the only question of importance, on which a difference existed between Mr. Dundas and Mr. Pitt, while they acted together, was that of the slave-trade; the latter contending for its abolition, on the score of humanity; the former opposing it, on the ground of policy. It is not impossible, however, that this difference might be a mere *ruse du cabinet*.

About the year 1794, Mr. Dundas's first wife having been sometime dead, he was united in marriage to Lady Jane Hopetoun, sister to the present earl of that name, on whom some advantageous settlements have since

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* The Duke of Portland was made secretary of state; but, as the assistance of Mr. Dundas was absolutely necessary in this department, a third secretaryship was instituted for him, for the conduct of the measures and operations of the war.

been

been made. In 1800, he resigned his respectable and powerful situation as president of the board of control; when the directors of the East-India Company, as a reward for his long and valuable services, passed a resolution for allowing him a life-annuity of 2000l. On this occasion, Mr. Dundas is said to have exhibited a master-piece of finesse. It has been asserted—but we have not the means either of confirming or of contradicting the statement—that, on being apprised of this resolution in his favour, he declined its acceptance *for himself*, but signified, that, if it were offered to his lady, it would not be refused. His lady, it should be observed, was considerably younger than himself; had therefore a probable chance of outliving him; and, consequently, if the annuity were settled on her, would enjoy it after his decease. To this *modest* proposal, it is said the directors acceded.

On the change of administration, in 1801, Mr. Dundas enjoyed a greater portion of leisure than had fallen to his lot for many years, and he embraced the opportunity of retiring into Scotland with his lady, to superintend his domestic affairs.

His retirement, however, was but of short duration; for, on the return of Mr. Pitt to office, in 1804, Mr. Dundas, now Lord Melville, returned with him, and succeeded Lord St. Vincent as first lord of the admiralty. But his return was not auspicious to his peace or fame. During Mr. Addington's administration, an enquiry had been instituted into various abuses which had taken place in the navy; and a heavy cloud threatened to burst over the head of the new first lord of the admiralty. Lord Melville had, at different periods, from the time of his first coming into office, held the post of treasurer

treasurer of the navy, and to him was imputed a series of malversation, reflecting the highest dishonour on his character. Enquiry had proceeded too far to be stopped; and, whatever might be the wishes of Lord Melville and his friends, necessity demanded that it should go forward. At length the fatal *Tenth Report* was brought into the house of commons, and excited a strong sensation in the public mind. Curiosity was raised to its extreme pitch; party prejudices ran violently high; and the friends and enemies of Lord Melville were alike anxious to ascertain the result. From the great influence of Lord Melville, and the strenuous support which he was expected to experience from his colleague, Mr. Pitt; little, however, seems to have been dreaded on his part. Perhaps, indeed, the gratifying consciousness, that no actual deficiency would appear against him, might tend to bear him up against the opposing storm. Even when Mr. Whitbread had given notice of his motion, which was to be founded on the contents of the *Tenth Report*, it was most generally thought, that the investigation would go no farther. A string of motions, however, was brought forward by Mr. Whitbread, on the 8th of April; and, on a division, the subject having been most strongly contested, the numbers being equal, the speaker's casting vote was given against Lord Melville.

The 8th of April has been termed a glorious day for the country. Perhaps it was so. The remark, however, must be admitted, that, had the friends of Lord Melville been more active and less confident, the result of the debate must have been different. A result, so favourable to their wishes, was not anticipated, or even hoped for by the promoters of the measure; it

was neither expected nor feared by the supporters of Lord Melville. It must be obvious to every person of reflection and candour—and the justice of the observation is borne out by the issue of subsequent debates—that there were three sets of men who voted on this occasion. Without implicating the integrity of the house of commons, either collectively or individually, it is not hazarding too much to assert, that there were *two* classes of men, who had made up their minds *previously* to the discussion of the question. These were, generally speaking, the friends and the enemies of Lord Melville; the friends and the enemies of Mr. Pitt's administration. There was, however, a *third* class of men, who had *not* made up their minds previously to the discussion of the question. These were independent men, attached to no party, neither fearing one nor courting another. A portion of these men *decided* the question. With the most virtuous and honourable intentions, some of them were doubtless led away by the heat of debate—and even by the virtue and honour of their feelings—and induced, from the specious arguments of certain leading characters, to vote in favour of their resolutions. This, as was evident from the votes of the *same* men—several of whom might be named—in *subsequent* debates, would not have been the case, had they had leisure to review the subject in their cooler moments. But, had the adherents of Lord Melville been less confident, they would have mustered stronger, and the extra number would have counterpoised the votes of the independent members. That Lord Melville had sanctioned, or connived at, the improper exercise of Mr. Trotter's official power, there could be no doubt;

 but

but that he had been a participator of the profits fraudulently obtained from the public money, was not, perhaps, so clearly proved. On the following day, however, his lordship judged it prudent to resign his post, as first lord of the admiralty; and, for nearly a fortnight, a species of interregnum ensued in that department.

The conduct of Mr. Pitt, when, to the clamorous and indecent demands of opposition, he was commissioned to state, that the name of Lord Melville would be struck out of the list of the members of the privy council, reflected much credit on his feelings as a man, and as a friend. He could not dissemble, he said, that he felt a deep and bitter pang at being the person to whose lot it fell to execute such a painful duty, as that of doing any thing to add to the punishment of the noble lord.

On the day appointed by Mr. Whitbread, for moving an impeachment against Lord Melville, his lordship, in conformity with the privileges of peers, presented himself in the house, and spoke in his own defence. After giving such explanation as he deemed requisite, relative to his political conduct, his mode of transacting business in the navy-office, and his connection with Mr. Trotter, he made a pathetic appeal to the house, representing the punishment of mind which he had already suffered, the wounds inflicted upon the feelings of his friends and relatives by the charges that had been brought against him; charges which he hoped would be fully controverted before he died; but, should they not, he trusted that posterity, when it should become acquainted with his innocence, would do justice to his character. In the course of his speech, too, his adversaries did not escape some portion of

of that reprehension, which the violence of their conduct had justly merited. He could not believe, he said, that an impeachment was gravely meditated upon, or that even a civil process was intended to be brought forward; as, in either case, he should imagine that speeches would not have been delivered in Palace-yard, and elsewhere, calculated to poison the sources of justice, to inflame the public mind against him, and to prevent every principle of a fair trial.

The discussion on the question of impeachment lasted two days, when it was negatived, in favour of Mr. Bond's amendment for a criminal prosecution. Thus was it determined, that Lord Melville, who had acted for upwards of twenty years as the confidential friend and colleague of Mr. Pitt; who, in the course of that time, had filled numerous offices of high trust and emolument; after having been compelled to resign his station as first lord of the admiralty, and after having had his name erased from the list of privy counsellors, should appear as an accused person before a judge and jury of his country. His lordship's friends, however, after having warded off the blow of an impeachment, and procured a criminal prosecution to be substituted in its room, conceived that the latter mode of proceeding would be still more harassing to his feelings. They therefore caused a motion to be made, that the proceedings against Lord Melville should be changed, from a criminal prosecution to an impeachment. This, though in form and effect rescinding a previous solemn determination of the house, was at length carried; and, the necessary forms having been gone through, a committee, appointed for that purpose, prepared and brought up the articles of impeachment, accusing

Henry Lord Viscount Melville, of high crimes and misdemeanors. *

His lordship now awaits the awful decision of his country. That he will make a vigorous defence, there can be but little doubt, considering the numerous palliatory circumstances that can be adduced. The breach of law, in appropriating the public money to other purposes than those for which it was originally intended, is admitted, and therefore a certain portion of *legal* guilt is evident. That the public money may have been made use of, by Lord Melville, or by his agent, and that it may thus have incurred considerable risk, will not perhaps be disputed; but, as there is no actual deficiency in his accounts, as the *principal* of the public money has sustained no deterioration, it will probably be contended by his friends, that no *moral* guilt can attach to his character. At all events, the enquiry which has been instituted upon the occasion will have the salutary effect of preventing similar

* The number of these articles is eight; and the substance of them is as follows:—They charge Lord Melville with having fraudulently converted 10,000l. of the public money to his own use, or to corrupt purposes;—with having connived at his agent's drawing the public money from the Bank, and keeping it at a private banker's; that the money so drawn was used for private purposes, to great risk; that he and his agent destroyed all the papers relative to their joint illegal transactions; that he received from his agent sums of money illegally drawn from the Bank, and kept at a private banker's; that the sum of 20,000l. was advanced to him, in this manner, without interest; that the farther sum of 20,000l. was advanced in the same manner, for which Lord Melville alledged that he was to pay interest; and that his agent did his private duty without pay; and advanced him various sums from the mixed account of public and private money.

abuses

abuses in future; and, as every honest man must be anxious, that the public money, in which all have a joint interest, should be considered as a sacred deposit, the expected trial of Lord Melville ought not to be regretted.

But, whatever may be the result of that trial, the asperity which its subject has given birth to, cannot but be deeply lamented. To the disgrace of the diurnal press, Lord Melville has been pre-judged and pre-condemned. Scarcely ever was a public question oppugned or supported, by such a mass of imbecile, yet acrimonious and vindictive scurrility, as that with which the nation has been insulted, both *pro* and *con*, relative to the assumed guilt or innocence of Lord Melville.

The truly magnanimous, who experience a more exalted satisfaction in extolling virtue than in punishing vice, will indulge the hope, that his Lordship's character may pass the fiery ordeal, and beam forth with brighter lustre than before. Should it not, in pity to his grey hairs, and in consideration of the long and valuable services which he has rendered to his country, let not the feelings of a fallen victim be goaded too far; suffer his crimes to be shrouded in oblivion, and permit him to descend to the grave in peace.

MRS. OPIE.

"Her modest worth the muses knew,
"Brought her rich talents forth to view;
"With their own fires they fill'd her soul,
"Bade her young eye in transport roll."

ANON.

WERE the milder virtues of Cornelia to be blended with the fascinating powers of the Mytilenian poetess, we should admire the happy combination, and should regard, with peculiar anxiety, the offspring of a luxuriant fancy regulated by the purest affections of the heart. A Sappho, an Erinne, a Corinna, and a few other names of distinguished feminine excellence, enrich the pages of antiquity; and, by the slight relics of their labours, we are enabled to form some estimate of their poetic talents. But, though their genius emitted an ardent blaze, though superiority of intellect beamed forth in every feature of their productions, the flame was not uniformly innoxious, and the magic of their verse too frequently favoured the interests of sensuality and vice. Unfortunately also for the cause of virtue, and of religion, the female writers of Britain, whatever may be their literary merit, cannot all of them escape from the lash of moral censure. Yet, if we exclude the vapid trash of circulating libraries, and the mischievous effusions of half-witted, uninformed,

ed, uneducated women, who happen to be seized with the *cacoethes scribendi*, the publications of our fair contemporaries are entitled to much praise. While we possess a More, a Barbauld, a West, a Hamilton, a D'Arblay, we cannot sink in the estimation of the good; and, contrasting them to their continental rivals, as we contemplate the preference of their mental acquirements, we cannot but exult, with honest pride, in the more elevated purity of their morals. In the above respectable list, the name of Opie claims an honourable insertion. "To raise the manners, and to amend the heart," have been her undeviating aim; and, though she at present ranks deservedly high on the scale of literary reputation, we doubt not, at a future period, that her exertions will demand a more exalted praise.

This lady, the second wife of Mr. Opie, the celebrated painter, to whom she was united about seven or eight years ago, is the daughter of Dr. Alderson, of Norwich, a physician of great eminence and skill. Of Miss Alderson it may be said, that

"She lisped in numbers, for the numbers came;"

as, at a very early period of life, she distinguished herself by the composition of poems, novels, and plays, several of which are understood to have been published anonymously.

Some years ago, before private theatricals had either become so general, or so destructive in their influence over the morality of the rising generation, as they are at present, the dramatic pieces of Miss Alderson were represented under her father's eye, at Norwich,

Norwich, in a theatre which that indulgent parent had caused to be fitted up for his daughter's amusement. The chief performers in these juvenile sports were Miss Alderson, the Misses Plumptre, their brother, and some young gentlemen, whose merit and talents had procured them the notice of the doctor.

As an author, we believe, the *name* of Miss Alderson never appeared. Her first *avowed* publication was that of *The Father and Daughter*, in the spring of 1801. This was an unassuming, short, and pathetic tale, related in a plain, but very impressive manner, in a single pocket volume.

A volume of poems, which she published in the succeeding year, materially increased her reputation. Elegance, tenderness, and simplicity, are their distinguishing characteristics; and, undeformed by any of those meretricious ornaments, which are too frequently used, even by writers of acknowledged celebrity, their perusal can scarcely fail of imparting pleasure to every reader of sensibility and taste. *The Dying Daughter to her Mother, The Negro Boy's Tale*, and, *The Address of a Felon to his Child on the Morning of his Execution*, are entitled to specific praise; and, though we are aware that the volume is in the possession of almostevery poetical reader, we cannot resist the inclination of transcribing the following pathetic stanzas:—

" *THE MOURNER.*

" Hence ! cruel life ! nor more persist
To warm this sad, this broken heart!
When Henry's clay-cold lips I kiss'd,
How welcome, death, had been thy dart!

* Speechless,

" Speechless, they say, benumbed I seemed,
  While his last precious breath I caught;
No tears to sooth my sorrow streamed,
  And agony suspended thought.

" They tell me thunders rent the air,—
  That vivid lightnings flash'd around;—
But I beheld no lightning's glare,
  Nor heard the pealing thunder sound.

" They tell me that my helpless child
  I from my arms with fury tossed;—
It might be so,—for I was wild,—
  The mother in the wife was lost.

" They tell me, on th' unconscious corse
  At length bereft of sense I fell;—
Ah! blessed state! of balm the source!
  It closed my ears to Henry's knell.

" But, happy state resembling death,
  Why is your balmy stupor flown?
O why restore her languid breath,
  Who now can only live to moan?

" E'en reason says I justly weep,
  And, ah! she says I weep in vain;
My midnight couch with tears I steep,
  Then rise at morn—to weep again.

" When to my heart my child I fold,
  She only deepens every sigh;
I think, while I her charms behold,
  How she'd have pleas'd her father's eye!

" And while I from her lisping tongue
  Soft childhood's artless accents hear,
I think, with vain remembrance wrung,
  How she'd have charmed her father's ear.

" I think—

" I think—but O forbear, fond heart!
From vain regrets to duties turn;—
Yes,—I will act a parent's part—
I'll tear myself from Henry's urn.

" In life I still one charm can see,—
One flower adorns that dreary wild,—
That flower for care depends on *me*—
O precious charge !—'Tis HENRY'S CHILD !"

About the same time that Mrs. Opie favoured the public with this agreeable chaplet of poësy, she presented, in a detached form, *An Elegy to the Memory of the late Duke of Bedford, written on the Evening of his Interment.* This, of course, was a hasty effusion, and, though it possessed some good lines, it was on the whole a languid and uninteresting poem. Mrs. Opie's heroic verse, at least in this instance, displayed neither the elegance nor the vigour which is requisite for that species of composition.

Early in the present year (1805), encouraged by the success of her former efforts, our fair author produced a tale, in three volumes, entitled, *Adeline Mowbray; or, the Mother and Daughter.* Educated in the principles of the new jargon, mis-named "*philosophy,*" and exemplifying in her own life the miseries attendant upon reducing its wild theories to practice, the heroine of this tale, after a series of trial, discovers that an adherence to the old "*prejudices*" of society, are at once the safest, and indeed the only rule for the government of human conduct. She expiates her errors by death; and, dying repentant, exhibits an awful and instructive lesson to youth. The following passage exhibits a specimen of Mrs. Opie's style of writing;

writing; and, as it is replete with just and valuable observations, its insertion must be acceptable to every reader.

"You, no doubt," says Adeline, in a letter written on her death-bed, "are all well acquainted with the arguments urged by different writers in favour of marriage. I shall therefore only mention the argument which carried at length full conviction to *my* mind, and conquered even my deep and heart-felt reverence for the opinions of one who long was, and ever will be, the dearest object of my love and regret. But *he*, had he lived, would I am sure have altered his sentiments; and had he been a parent, the argument I allude to, as it is founded on a consideration of the interest of children, would have found its way to his reason, through his affections.

"It is evident that on the education given to children must depend the welfare of the community; and, consequently, that whatever is likely to induce parents to neglect the education must be *hurtful* to the welfare of the community. It is also certain, that though the agency of the *passions* be necessary to the existence of all society, it is on the cultivation and influence of the *affections* that the happiness and improvement of social life depend.

"Hence it follows that marriage must be more beneficial to society in its consequences, than connexions capable of being dissolved at pleasure; because it has a tendency to call forth and exercise the affections, and control the passions. It has been said, that, were we free to dissolve at will a connexion formed by love, we should not wish to do it, as constancy is natural to us, and there is in all of us a tendency to form an ex-

 clusive

clusive attachment. But though I believe, from my own experience, that the few are capable of unforced constancy, and could love for life one dear and honoured object, still I believe that the many are given to the love of change; that, in men especially, a new object can excite new passion; and, judging from the increasing depravity of both sexes, in spite of existing laws, and in defiance of shame, I am convinced, that if the ties of marriage were dissolved, or it were no longer to be judged infamous to act in contempt of them, unbridled licentiousness would soon be in general practice. What then, in such a state of society, would be the fate of the children born in it! What would their education be? Parents continually engrossed in the enervating but delightful egotism of a new and happy love, lost in selfish indulgence, the passions awake, but the affections slumbering, and the sacred ties of parental feeling not having time nor opportunity to fasten on the heart, their offspring would either die the victims of neglect, and the very existence of the human race be threatened; or, without morals or instruction, they would grow up to scourge the world by their vices, till the whole fabric of society was gradually destroyed.

"On this ground, therefore, this strong ground, I venture to build my present opinion, that marriage is a wise and ought to be a sacred institution; and I bitterly regret the hour when, with the hasty and immature judgment of eighteen, and with a degree of presumption scarcely pardonable at any time of life, I dared to think and act contrary to this opinion, and the reverend experience of ages, and became in the eyes of the world an example of vice, when I believed myself the champion of virtue."

"There

"There are two ways in which a mother can be of use to her daughter: the one is by instilling into her mind virtuous principles, and by setting her a virtuous example: the other is, by being to her in her own person an awful warning; a melancholy proof of the dangers which attend a deviation from the path of virtue. But, oh! how jealous must a mother be of her child's esteem and veneration! and how could she bear to humble herself in the eyes of the beloved object, by avowing that she had committed crimes against society, however atoned for by penitence and sorrow! I can never, now, be a correct example for my Editha, nor could I endure to live to be a warning to her. Nay, if I lived, I should be most probably a dangerous example to her; for I should be (on my death-bed I think I may be allowed the boast) respected and esteemed; while the society around me would forget my past errors, in the sincerity of my repentance.

"If, then, a strong temptation should assail my child, might she not yield to it from an idea that "one false step may be retrieved," and cite her mother as an example of this truth? while, unconscious of the many secret heart-aches of that repentant mother, unconscious of the sorrows and degradations she had experienced, she regarded nothing but the present respectability of her mother's life, and contented herself with hoping one day to resemblé her.

"Believe me, that were it possible for me to choose between life and death, for my child's sake the choice would be the latter. Now, when she shall see in my mournful and eventful history, written as it has been by me in moments of melancholy leisure, that all my sorrows were consequent on one presumptuous error of judgment

judgment in early youth, and shall see a long and minute detail of the secret agonies which I have endured, those agonies wearing away my existence, and ultimately hurrying me to an untimely grave; she will learn that the woman who feels justly, yet has been led even into the practice of vice, however she may be forgiven by others, can never forgive herself; and though she may dare to lift an eye of hope to that Being who promises pardon on repentance, she will still recollect with anguish the fair and glorious course which she might have run; and that, instead of humbly imploring forbearance and forgiveness, she might have demanded universal respect and esteem.

"True it is, that I did not act in defiance of the world's opinion, from any depraved feelings, or vicious inclinations: but the world could not be expected to believe this, since motives are known only to our own hearts, and the great Searcher of hearts: *therefore, as far as example goes, I was as great a stumbling-block to others as if the life I led had been owing to the influence of lawless desires; and society was right in making, and in seeing, no distinction between me and any other woman living in an unsanctioned connexion.*

"But methinks I hear you say, that Editha might never be informed of my past errors. Alas! wretched must that woman be whose happiness and respectability depend on the secresy of others! Besides, did I not think the concealment of crime in itself a crime, how could I know an hour of peace while I reflected that a moment's malice, or inadvertency, in one of Editha's companions might cause her to blush at her mother's disgrace?—that, while her young cheek was flushed perhaps with the artless triumphs of beauty, talent, and

 virtue,

virtue, the parent who envied me, or the daughter who envied her, might suddenly convert her joy into anguish and mortification, by artfully informing her, with feigned pity for my sorrows and admiration of my penitence, that I had once been a *disgrace* to that family of which I was now the pride? No—even if I were not for ever separated in this world from the only man whom I ever loved with passionate and well-founded affection, united for life to the object of my just aversion, and were I not conscious (horrible and overwhelming thought!) of having by my example led another into the path of sin, still, I repeat it, for my child's sake I should wish to die, and should consider, not only death, but lengthened existence, as a curse."

This performance, which, on account of its principles alone, demands the eulogy of the virtuous, evinces uncommon powers of pathos, and displays a capability in the author, of constructing a fable, and of supporting its interest with great effect. In the publication of *Adeline Mowbray*, Mrs. Opie has rendered an essential service to society; it is a present which every mother ought to make to her daughter, and cannot fail of producing the most salutary effect.

Mrs. Opie's *Father and Daughter* has passed through the fourth edition; her *Poems* have reached the third; *Adeline Mowbray* has already attained its second; and we understand that our fair author's pen is again employed in the composition of a work which is likely soon to appear.

We have heard it asserted, that, to a most melodious voice, Mrs. Opie unites the highest skill of taste and science; that she is considered to be the best pri-

 vate

vate performer upon the piano forte, and harp, in the kingdom; and that she is *deeply* read in the French, Italian, and German authors. This is somewhat of a redundancy of praise, to which we are well assured that the ingenuous modesty of Mrs. Opie lays no claim. That she sings well, that she plays with elegance and precision, and that she possesses some knowledge of musical science, will not perhaps be contested; but we are assured that her pretensions, if she have any, are very slight with respect to an intimacy with foreign idioms.

Mrs. Opie may be described, as tall in person, and uncommonly graceful; her animated features, more than pretty, but rather less than beautiful, displaying, with peculiar expression, the luxuriance of youth and the energies of mind. Her evening *conversationes* are distinguished for their brilliancy, as the resort of wit, fashion, and elegance.

MR. WILLIAM GODWIN.

MR. GODWIN is one of those speculative writers, whose opinions have excited much curiosity in the literary world. Respecting such a man, the public are always necessarily divided in their sentiments. While he is the idol of some, he is the butt and detestation of others; it too frequently happening, that, when a man's principles are deemed objectionable, his talents are slighted and contemned. This proceeds from an overweening self-partiality on the part of those, whose principles, in their turn, may be deemed objectionable by others, and their talents be equally exposed to ridicule and contempt. The subject of this memoir has, on account of his principles, been vehemently applauded, and violently censured. We have also heard his literary acquisitions, and his mode of writing, spoken lightly of; but we believe that the general sentiment is in favour of his abilities, regarding them as of a superior cast.

Mr. Godwin, who has himself been educated as a dissenter, was the son of Mr. John Godwin, the minister of a congregation at Guestwick, in Norfolk, and the grandson of Mr. Edward Godwin, who was also a dissenting clergyman of great estimation in his time. The latter gentleman is said to have been a popular pastor, and a pious man; a good scholar, and an elegant

gant critic.* He was the contemporary and intimate friend of Watts, Bradbury, Barker, and Neale, dissenting names of high consideration in the early part of the last century; and from the circumstance of his having a large congregation, of the richer class, in London, it is presumed that his temporal affairs were in a flourishing condition.

Mr. John Godwin, the father of our author, was a man of excellent character, and greatly beloved; but, though a clergyman, and probably well qualified for such a task, he did not undertake the education of his son, but consigned him to the care of a schoolmaster in his neighbourhood. This man appears to have possessed more penetration than village school-masters are generally endowed with, as he soon perceived, that young Godwin "was no vulgar boy," and consequently cherished a strong presentiment of his future superiority.

In due time, Mr. Godwin was sent to Norwich, for the purpose of pursuing his studies under the eye of a private tutor. From thence he was removed to the dissenters' college, at Hoxton, near London, where he remained five years under the care of the late Dr. Kippis, and of Dr. Rees, editor of the new Cyclopedia, &c. At this place, he went through the usual routine of college study; but it does not appear that he distin-

* It is related, that Robert Blair, the author of the well known poem, entitled *The Grave*, who resided in a remote part of Scotland, committed the care of publishing that poem to Mr. Edward Godwin, at the same time consulting him as a critic. The poem met with great success; and, on the author's arrival in town, he expressed himself deeply indebted to the critical advice of his friend.

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guished himself among his fellow students, farther than by being at the head of a little party, the admirers of his eccentric notions, which already began to display themselves.

Agreeably to the custom of Hoxton college, Mr. Godwin, in common with his fellow-students designed for the ministry, preached in London and its vicinity, during the last year of his abode at that place. On his quitting the college, in 1778, he commenced the functions of a dissenting minister, which he regularly performed for the period of four years, chiefly at Stowmarket, in Suffolk, where he had a congregation. We believe that some of Mr. Godwin's sermons have been published, but they have not fallen under our inspection. They would certainly be regarded as objects of curiosity, in which the philosophical reader might expect to meet with some of those traits of original thought which have so much distinguished the subsequent writings of their author. It should not be passed over without remark, that, though the instructors of Mr. Godwin, at Hoxton, were professedly Arminians, or Arians, he adopted the doctrines of Calvin. Perhaps this circumstance may be considered as one of the first indications of that spirit of enquiry, which he has since so sedulously pursued.

But the duties of the ministry were not congenial with the feelings of Mr. Godwin; with the sentiments of a man who presumed to think for himself. His heart panted for some occupation, in which he could, unshackled, give way to the workings of his fancy, and the reasonings of his mind. In the year 1782, he therefore removed to London, with the hardy determination of commencing an author. The first ten years of his literary progress were passed in some of those obscure

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and temporary labours which have frequently preceded and smoothed the road to a splendid and lasting fame. Confined, however, as was the sphere in which he moved, he obtained the esteem of those with whom he was connected. He was remarked for his unwearied application, for his economy, for the moderation of his enjoyments, for the integrity of his conduct, and for the independence of his character. As a proof of the latter, it deserves to be recorded, that, having occasionally taken up the pen, in some of the political disputes of that period, he had an offer made to him, by a certain party in this country, of a very liberal establishment, which he refused.

Until the year 1782 or 1783, Mr. Godwin had maintained a character of religious consistency; but, at the commencement of 1793, at which period his "*Political Justice*," was published, we behold him as a writer, whose freedom of enquiry, and fearlessness of deduction, excited alarm, not only in orthodox believers, but in dissenters of every class and description. As it related to the success of this work, Mr. Godwin had ample reason to congratulate himself on the severity of that discipline to which he had subjected himself during its composition. It was read with almost unexampled avidity. In 1795, an edition was published in octavo, the first having been in quarto; and, so great was the continued demand, in 1797 a third edition appeared. Notwithstanding its great legitimate sale, several pirated editions were published in Ireland and Scotland.

The merits of this publication have been so frequently discussed, and by such a variety of writers, that it is wholly unnecessary for us to obtrude any additional

additional remarks. The fame and profit which it procured for its author, notwithstanding the violent attack which it sustained, were an ample compensation for the labour which it had cost him.

"Caleb Williams," a novel, was the next production of Mr. Godwin's pen. This eloquent, and highly interesting work of fiction, may be considered as an exemplification of the doctrines contained in "POLITICAL JUSTICE." From the nature of the work, it was more upon a level with the comprehension of general readers; it was sought after with astonishing eagerness; and ran through several editions in a very short space of time. It contributed, in an eminent degree, not only to establish, but to increase the fame of its author.

In 1794, the prompt and decisive mind of Mr. Godwin was, for a short time, occupied on a subject of considerable importance. It was in the autumn of that year, that the Lord Chief Justice Eyre delivered his charge to the grand jury, relative to the approaching state trials. According to the opinions of many, and, among them, of Mr. Godwin, had the doctrines which were contained in that charge been infused into the minds of the juries before whom the state prisoners were to be tried, the result would not only have been fatal to the accused, but to the liberties of the nation at large. We are not entering into the merits of the charge, or into those of Mr. Godwin's strictures thereon: we are only adverting to the motives which led to the production of the latter. Those motives were unquestionably laudable. Strongly impressed with the idea, and fully convinced in his own mind, that the doctrines which were contained in the charge might be

fatal to the lives of some, and to the liberties of all, he determined, at considerable personal risk, to endeavour to counteract their tendency. The determination did him honour. With the assistance of a friend, who wrote to his dictation, in the course of eight and forty hours he produced his "*Cursory Strictures on the Charge delivered by Lord Chief Justice Eyre to the Grand Jury, on the 2d of October*, 1794." They first appeared in the *Morning Chronicle*, and were thence copied into other papers. They were next sent to the press in the form of a pamphlet; but, on the day of publication, in the midst of a rapid demand, the bookseller, intimidated by the threat of a prosecution, suddenly withdrew them from sale. Whether another publisher were found for the pamphlet, or whether it ever got into general circulation, we know not; but its intended purposes were fully answered; and the author enjoyed the gratification of having served his friends to a material extent.

At the end of 1796, or at the commencement of 1797, Mr. Godwin published a volume of Miscellaneous Essays, relative to education, manners, and literature, under the modest title of "*The Enquirer.*" To oppose the prejudice of ages, when that prejudice is found to be inimical to the genuine interests of man; and, detecting the fallacy of received opinions, to meliorate the human mind, is among the noblest efforts of philosophical enquiry. The value of Mr. Godwin's exertions, in such pursuits, will be differently estimated, according to the *received opinions*, and "*prejudices*," of his respective readers. However, the literary enquiries of this volume, though sometimes fanciful, speculative, and erroneous, will generally be found

found interesting and conclusive. Mr. Godwin seems fully to have succeeded in his attempts to prove, that our style, at this day, is by far more polished, clear, and nervous, than it has been at any preceding period of English literature.

It was early in the year 1797, that Mr. Godwin was married to the celebrated Mary Wollstonecraft. He had casually met that lady, in mixed company, previously to her excursion on the continent, which took place in 1792; but, from some difference in their principles, we are told that they parted from each other, with impressions mutually unfavourable. In April, 1796, however, their acquaintance was renewed, in consequence of a meeting at the apartments of a common friend, who had forwarded the interview, with a wish of removing their prejudices, and of diverting the melancholy of a woman whose talents and misfortunes had excited a most affectionate interest. From this meeting originated a degree of intimacy between the parties, to which a friendly and confidential intercourse gradually succeeded, preparing the way for sentiments still more cordial and tender. "But," says Mr. Godwin, (*vide* his "*Memoirs of Mary,*") "we did not marry." That is, they did not marry at the commencement of their connection. The speculative notions of Mr. Godwin were averse from marriage; those of Mary Wollstonecraft are understood to have been of a similar cast; consequently, they "did not marry." The regulations of society, however, pointing out the necessity of a *legitimate* union, they were at length married, some months before the death of Mrs. Godwin, who died in childbed, in the month of September, 1797. *The light which had been*

lent to him, for a short time, was thus extinguished for ever!

The memory of the unfortunate Mary has been cruelly insulted; not, indeed, with the view of warring against her ashes; but, from a spirit of opposition to her principles. That her principles, many of them, were pernicious, and, in their effects, most baneful to the interests of society, we shall not attempt to deny; of the justice of the charge we are fully convinced; but, that she was radically vicious, or that she acted otherwise than from what she considered to be virtuous inclinations, we cannot for a moment believe. That she possessed a vigorous understanding, and an affectionate heart, is a position that her most violent opponents ought not to controvert. That Mary imbibed a passion for a man, who, by the sacred ties of marriage, was united to another woman, is admitted; but she did not yield to that passion. Had her own feelings been alone consulted, the peace of a family might have been disturbed, and perhaps for ever ruined; but, with the magnanimity worthy of a great character, she retired from the scene of danger, and, in absence, sought to recover her tranquillity. It is admitted that, while on the continent, she entered into an improper intercourse with the man whose name she subsequently bore. This action cannot be approved; religion and morality unite in its condemnation. But it meets with some palliation from the generous motives to which it owed its birth. Mary's pecuniary circumstances were embarrassed, and she disdained to involve the man of her choice in her difficulties. The *man* was principally to blame; for, had he been actuated by honourable feelings, *his* generosity would have

have overcome her's; or, at least, had he yielded to what might be the necessities of the moment, his future conduct ought to have evinced the tenderness, delicacy, and honour of his affection. But, alas! tenderness, delicacy, and honour, are not in the list of every one's virtues! Poor Mary experienced a sad deficiency. The man who should have cherished her in his bosom, till the grave had severed their destinies, deserted this hapless child of misfortune. When we peruse the letters of Mary Wollstonecroft—letters fraught with the purest affection, with the most ardent and disinterested attachment—we cannot but reflect with disgust, with detestation, and with horror, on the cold-heartedness of the being to whom they were addressed! Mary deserved a better fate.. Like the generality of women, possessed of more genius than judgment, her errors were many; but, had she been united to a man, capable of appreciating her worth, and of directing her talents into a proper channel, instead of being censured by many, she would have been approved by all; she would have passed through life, an honour and an ornament of society; and, sinking to the grave in peace, her memory would have been embalmed by the benedictions of the virtuous.

At the period of Mr. Godwin's connection with Mary, and for some time previously, he lived in a small house, without any domestic, and without any other attendance than that of a woman who came every morning to set the house in order for the day. When visited by his more intimate friends, they mutually assisted each other in the requisite services of the table. After their marriage, too, Mr. and Mrs. Godwin had their respective suite of apartments, to

 which

which they retired during the mornings, which were usually devoted to their studies and literary occupations. Thus did a temporary absence give a zest to their enjoyments during the latter part of the day; for Mary, as Mr. Godwin tells us, "was a worshipper of domestic life." We are informed that, during her illness, he "watched over the means attempted for her recovery with a fortitude and presence of mind that recalled to his friends the recollection of the philosopher they had been used to contemplate in his writings; but, when hope was gone, he abandoned himself to sorrow that seemed to assimilate him with the weakest of mankind: and, when Mrs. Godwin was no more, he admitted of no consolation, in the first moments of his anguish, but that of paying a superstitious respect to her remains."

The funeral of Mrs. Godwin was attended by several persons, distinguished by their talents, as friends and mourners, and by a crowd of strangers, drawn together by motives of curiosity, and by their respect for the deceased. Her remains were deposited in St. Pancras church-yard, where a plain and simple monument, bearing the following inscription, has since been erected to her memory:

"MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT GODWIN,
"AUTHOR OF
"A VINDICATION
"OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMAN.
"BORN XXVII APRIL, MDCCLIX.
"DIED X SEPTEMBER, MDCCXCVII."

In the course of the following year, Mr. Godwin superintended the publication of Mary's posthumous works;

works; accompanying them by her "*Memoirs.*" The latter was a tribute due to her worth; but, howsoever gratifying her private letters might be to the curiosity of the public, delicacy seemed to require that they ought not to have been given to the world. The publication of letters, which never could have been intended for the general eye, seems a violation of the secrets of the departed.

Literature, which, next to religion, is the greatest source of consolation to the cultivated mind, labouring under affliction, now poured her healing balm into the mental wounds of the survivor. By a close application to study, Mr. Godwin was enabled to blunt the poignancy of his grief; and, perhaps rather as an exercise, than as as a serious effort, in 1799, he presented the world with the romance of "*St. Leon.*" This performance, which is founded on the adventures of a man, supposed to be possessed of the philosopher's stone, and of the elixir of eternal life, possesses fewer defects than *Caleb Williams;* though, from a consciousness in the mind of the reader of the impossibility of the story, it can scarcely be said to excite so powerful an interest. Yet the talents of the author are exhibited in a striking and favourable light. The richness of invention, and the sublimity of language which frequently embellish the pages of *St. Leon*, have not been surpassed of late years.

Mr. Godwin was next to appear as a votary of the buskined muse. In the year 1800, he produced a tragedy, entitled "*Antonio,*" which was performed we believe *one* night at Drury Lane Theatre. Of the success of this piece, his friends are said to have formed great expectations; and its representation was pre-

ceded by an elegant prologue from the pen of Charlotte Smith. But, in this instance, Mr. Godwin's good genius seems to have forsaken him; for his tragedy was irrevocably damned; and though, "to shame the rogues," he printed it, the reception which it experienced in the closet was not much superior to that which it had met with on the stage. In prose, Mr. Godwin had proved himself an able and an elegant writer; but now the *blank verse halted for it*. It was, in truth exceedingly *lame*.

In the succeeding year, our author published a pamphlet, in reply to the attacks of Dr. Parr, Mr. Mackintosh, and others. From this pamphlet we shall extract a brief passage, which will convey to the reader some idea of Mr. Godwin's political sentiments. Alluding to the French revolution, he says, "I am willing to yield to these men considerable praise for the constancy with which they persevered so long; as long perhaps, as worldly prudence could in any degree countenance. But why, because I have not been so prudent as they, should I be made the object of their invective? I never went so far, in my partiality for the practical principles of the French revolution, as many of those with whom I was accustomed to converse: I uniformly declared myself an enemy to revolutions. Many persons censured me for this lukewarmness; I willingly endured the censure. Several of those persons are now in the opposite extreme. They must excuse me; they have wandered wide of me, on the one side and on the other; I did not follow them before; I cannot follow them now."

A philosopher ought to act—or to endeavour to act—up to the principles which he inculcates. But Mr. Godwin,

Godwin, we are told, does not think it necessary to the solidity of his doctrines, that his conduct should be raised to their elevation. He will, however, find much difficulty in persuading the world, that his marriage with Mary Wollstonecraft did not proceed from a conviction of the absurdity of his theories on this subject: or, at least, of the impossibility, in the present state of things, of reducing them to practice. His *second* marriage, which took place in 1801, will not fail of being construed into a proof of his *respect* for an institution which he once affected to *despise*.

The present Mrs. Godwin is spoken of as a lady, not only of very accomplished and amiable manners, but one from whose talents her friends have formed very sanguine expectations.

In 1803, a work of far greater importance and value than any that had before occupied the pen of Mr. Godwin, was given to the public. We allude to "The Life of Chaucer." It would be foreign from our purpose to enter upon an analysis of this truly erudite work; but, unless we greatly err in our judgment, it will contribute more to the *lasting* fame of its author than any of the performances which he had previously executed.

Early in 1805, Mr. Godwin again appeared before the public as a writer of romance. His "*Fleetwood, or the New Man of Feeling,*" is at this moment eagerly read. Some observations in the preface to this work seem to throw an additional light on the author's sentiments respecting marriage. "Certain persons," he says, "who condescend to make my supposed inconsistencies the favourite object of their research, will, perhaps, remark with exultation on the respect expressed

pressed for marriage; and exclaim, *It was not always thus!* referring to the pages in which this subject is treated in the Enquiry concerning Political Justice for the proof of their assertion. The answer to this remark is exceedingly simple. The production referred to in it, the first foundation of its author's claim to public distinction and favour, was a treatise, aiming to ascertain what new institutions in political society might be found more conducive to general happiness than those which at present prevail. In the course of this disquisition it was enquired, whether marriage, as it stands described and supported in the laws of England, might not with advantage admit of certain modifications? Can any thing be more distinct, than such a proposition on the one hand, and a recommendation on the other, that each man for himself should supersede and trample upon the institutions of the country in which he lives? A thousand things might be found excellent and salutary, if brought into general practice, which would, in some cases, appear ridiculous, and in others be attended with tragical consequences, if prematurely acted upon by a solitary individual. The author of Political Justice, as appears again and again in the pages of that work, is the last man in the world to recommend a pitiful attempt, by scattered examples, to renovate the face of society, instead of endeavouring, by discussion and reasoning, to effect a grand and comprehensive improvement in the sentiments of its members."

Mr. Godwin, indefatigable in literary exertion, has recently published a notice, "that he has undertaken to compile a work, to be entitled The HISTORY OF ENGLAND, *from the earliest Records of Events in this Island*

Island to the Revolution in 1688, to be written on a scale not smaller than that of the History of England, during the same period, by Hume." A performance of this nature has for some time been a *desideratum* in British literature: not from a hope or expectation that the style or manner of Hume would be surpassed in excellence; but, from a knowledge that, through the lapse of time, many documents have been discovered, which much tend to a farther elucidation of several important passages in our history. Mr. Godwin has evidently been struck with this idea; for, after soliciting the inspection and use of such rare books, manuscripts, &c. as may be in the possession of individuals, he observes that, "he would not have undertaken such a work, were he not animated with the ardent hope, by study and diligence, to throw new light upon our annals;" adding, that it will be the first object of his vigilance to divest himself of such partialities and prepossessions as might lead him, in any degree, to distort or misrepresent any transaction or character of which he shall have occasion to treat.

Mr. Godwin's mind is unquestionably well adapted to the labour of historical research; and, from the specimen which he has given us of his abilities in this branch of writing, in his *Life of Chaucer*, we cannot but form very sanguine expectations of his success.

MR. CHERRY.

"THE business of plays," says old Jeremy Collier, "is to commend virtue, and discountenance vice; to shew the uncertainty of human greatness, the sudden turns of fate, and the unhappy conclusions of violence and injustice: 'tis to expose the singularities of pride and fancy, to make folly and falsehood contemptible, and to bring every thing that is ill under infamy and neglect." These are the legitimate objects of the drama. That they have been uniformly pursued, by the poets of Britain, would be an unfounded position; yet the stage, in its unsophisticated simplicity, may unquestionably be regarded as the grand preceptor of youth, as the regulator of manhood, as the great *custos morum* of the nation. What a weight of responsibility then rests upon the man who, whether as an actor or as an author, devotes his talents to the stage. When both characters are united in one person, he, of course, incurs a double portion of responsibility; though, should his labours prove successful, he is equally entitled to a double share of praise.

How arduous is the profession of an actor, and how hazardous is the fame of a dramatic author, the subject of this memoir can sufficiently testify! It is not sufficient to obtain the applause of those who are capable

pable of appreciating merit, but the taste of the mob also must be consulted. Attacks are to be dreaded from all quarters; and, though some of the shafts may fall innocuous of their aim, though some of the thrusts may be parried, others may strike home, and severely injure the reputation of the object against whom they are levelled.

Among the most dangerous weapons against which authors and actors have to defend themselves, is that of *newspaper-criticism*. To the liberal-minded critic, the office of pointing out beauties is far more grateful than that of exposing defects. Criminals are punished not with the view of exciting torture in the human frame, but for the more laudable purposes of correcting vice, and of improving the morals of society. So on the stage, defects should be noticed, in order that they may be corrected and avoided in future. If a criminal be found incorrigible, let him be delivered over to final punishment; and, if an actor or an author persist in insulting the town, it is but just that he should experience a castigation proportionate to his offence. It must be confessed that, where there happens to be no personal prejudice, newspaper-critics are seldom backward in awarding praise; but their praise is frequently so injudicious, and so ill-timed, that it proves more detrimental than censure. The annals of the stage also furnish a variety of instances, in which performers have been censured for their enacting of characters in which they never happened to appear. This may evince a degree of ingenuity in the critic, who fancies himself capable of criticising without seeing, but it reflects no credit on his veracity; and when, in such cases, he presumes to condemn, it redounds

redounds as little to the honour of his moral feelings. A ludicrous circumstance of the nature alluded to has occurred during the present season, respecting certain performers at Drury Lane theatre. The revival of the *Constant Couple* had been announced for representation on a Saturday evening; but, on account of the alledged indisposition of a principal performer, the piece was changed for Goldsmith's comedy of *She Stoops to Conquer*. On the succeeding morning, however, a Sunday paper * exhibited the following *liberal* critique:—

"Last night, Farquhar's sprightly comedy of *The Constant Couple* was most laboriously and successfully murthered at this theatre. Elliston tamed the gaiety of *Sir Harry Wildair*, with a felicity which they who admire such doings can never sufficiently extol. The sprightly knight was, by Elliston's care, reduced to a figure of as little fantastic vivacity as could be shewn by *Tom Errand* in *Beau Clincher's* clothes. *Beau Clincher* himself was quite lost in Jack Bannister: it was Bannister, not the *Clincher* of Farquhar, that the representation continually suggested to the audience. Miss Mellon was not an unpleasing representation of *Angelica*. But, criticism has not language severe enough to mark, as it deserves, the impertinence of Barrymore's presuming to put himself forward in the part of *Colonel Standard*. We were less offended, though it was impossible to be much pleased, with Dowton's attempt to enact *Alderman Smuggler*. But the acting was altogether very sorry." †

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* The British Neptune.

† Jackson, the Edinburgh manager, in his "*Strictures*" on the

The feelings of the author of this *bonne bouche* of slander must, on detection, it is presumed, have been a sufficient punishment. Independently, however, of the neglect of duty which it exposed, it evidently must have been produced from vindictive motives. While charging Mr. Barrymore with impertinence and presumption for appearing in the character of *Colonel Standard*, the writer of the paragraph in question must have known, that it is not in the power of any actor to refuse a part which may be assigned him by the manager, without incurring the heavy penalty of 30l. Such are the regulations of the theatres: whether they are salutary or proper, this is not the place to enquire. A knowledge of the fact, however, must furnish many excuses for the appearance of performers in characters to which they, perhaps, feel themselves wholly incompetent.

So keenly, yet withal so properly, did the performers feel on this occasion, that they gave full publicity to the circumstance; and a literary gentleman, who

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the young Roscius, relates the following amusing anecdote, of a similar nature, though without any malevolent tendency:—"Dr. Hill, afterwards Sir John Hill, author of a paper called *The Inspector*, came into the green-room of Covent Garden theatre, and, addressing himself to Mrs. Woffington, of celebrated memory, and then the first actress in that house, he questioned her, whether or not she had seen the INSPECTOR of that day? She answered him in the negative. The doctor replied, If you had, you would have seen my opinion of your performance, last night, in the character of Calista. I am much obliged to you, sir, (says the lady) for your kind attention to me, but, unfortunately, the play of that evening was obliged to be changed to *The Journey to London*, in which I played the part of Lady Townley."

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had been formerly concerned in the offending newspaper, conceiving his character to be at stake, thought proper to disavow the paragraph by public advertisement.

We now proceed to the immediate object of our notice. Mr. Andrew Cherry, with whose merits, as an actor, the frequenters of Drury Lane theatre have been acquainted for about four years, is a native of Limerick, in Ireland, in which city he was born, on the 11th of January, 1762. His father, the late Mr. John Cherry, was an eminent printer and bookseller, in Limerick; but his ancestors had been in possession of a considerable estate, near Sheffield, in Yorkshire, on which they had resided for several centuries: the family is consequently of English extraction. They were of the people called quakers; but, in the time of William III. one of them renouncing the mild tenets of his sect, and feeling himself moved by a spirit of martial enterprize, followed the fortunes of that monarch, and fought under him, as cornet of horse, in all the Irish wars. On the capitulation of Limerick, he married an Irish lady, and purchased an estate at a place called Croome, near Limerick, where his descendants resided for many years. The imprudence, however, of the present Mr. Cherry's grandfather, deprived him and his successors of a paternal property which yields, to its present possessor, an annual income of many thousand pounds.

Mr. Cherry, having been designed for the church, received a respectable school-education, which it was the intention of his father to have completed at the university. But the execution of this plan, for which he was deeply anxious, was prevented by family disappoint-

appointments, and young Cherry was under the necessity of relinquishing the study of theology for pursuits of a less inviting nature. In 1773, at the early age of eleven years, he was consigned to the care of Mr. James Potts, an eminent printer and bookseller, of Dame Street, Dublin.

It would be difficult to ascertain the cause of that predilection for the stage, which seems to exist among the members of the typographical profession. Certain it is, however, that the sock and buskin have derived many of their wearers from the printing-office.

About this time, the rivalship of the theatres in Smock-alley and Capel-street was the subject of general conversation; and, in Mr. Potts's office, each house had its partisans. Among these *men of letters*, the merits of the plays and of the performers, at the respective theatres, were fully, and warmly discussed. It is perfectly natural, that conversation of such a nature should produce an ardent desire, in a youthful mind, to witness those scenes which excited so much, and such general interest. Young Cherry had never yet seen the interior of a theatre; but, on the last night that that accomplished, but ill-starred actor, Mossop, performed *Zanga*, in the *Revenge*, his ardent wish was gratified. To say that he was pleased, that he was delighted, would be too cold a praise; he was "rapt, inspired!" The exquisite acting of that celebrated tragedian inflamed his imagination; the theatre became his grand point of attraction; and, whenever his master, and his pocket-money would permit, he revelled in the enjoyment of his favourite pleasure. The consequence of this was, that his taste for business declined rapidly; the arrangement of types was

no longer tolerable; and he began to despise the drudgery of all mechanical employment. His passion for spouting now commenced; and, at the age of fourteen, in conjunction with some of his play-fellows, whose stage-struck fancies were heated equally with his own, he got up the tragedy of *Cato*, in a large room, at the Black-a-Moor's Head, Fownes's Street, Dublin. Cherry appeared in the character of *Lucia*. This was his first histrionic essay. The applause which it obtained him increased his *penchant* for theatrical exhibitions, and induced him to perform all the leading characters in pieces which were got up for the entertainment of himself and his friends.

Shortly after his *debût*, an incident occurred, which seems to have fixed his destination for life. Hearing that a number of young men, of great theatric note, were to assemble at a certain house, for the purpose of reciting passages from dramatic authors, and with a view of displaying the superiority of their declaiming powers, he obtained an introduction to the meeting of the supposed amateurs. He soon found, however, that these "men of high renown" were nothing more than a parcel of inexperienced youths, who had been drawn together by the reprehensible artifice of a country manager, with the design of recruiting his half-starved company by selecting, and seducing those of the most promising talents. Young Cherry was a stranger to all present, excepting the young man who introduced him, and who prevailed on him, in his turn, to recite a speech for the gratification of the company. After much hesitation, he complied, and, from the tragedy of *Douglas*, delivered the admired speech of the hero, beginning, "My name is Norval."

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This narratory speech is generally a favourite with unfledged actors, though, to give it due effect, it requires great judgment, and considerable skill in declamation. Cherry, however, was successful; Mr. Martin, the itinerant manager, expressed his approbation with warmth; and the young adventurer was encouraged to go through the quarrelling scene between *Norval* and *Glenalvon*. This was received as the climax of all possible excellence; and the manager's wife, the only female spectator of this curious scene, rose from her chair, and, with an assumed air of enthusiasm, embraced the little votary of Melpomene with all the apparent ardour of affectionate delight. The *denouement* of the farce was now developed. The manager declared his purpose, offered him an immediate engagement, which Cherry accepted, well assured that fame and fortune would crown his successful exertions. It should be remarked, that the Thespian community of which our hero became a member, was what was called a *sharing-company*, in which, consequently, no specific pecuniary recompence could be stated. But this gave a greater scope to his hopes and wishes than he could possibly have enjoyed under the *mercenary* limits of a *stipulated* salary.

Thus, before he had attained his seventeenth year, Mr. Cherry launched into a profession, which, perhaps, of all others, is the most arduous and precarious. His first appearance, as a public performer, was in the character of *Colonel Feignwell*, at a town called Naas, fourteen miles from Dublin; his performance evinced considerable talent; the manager's encomiums were ardent and encouraging; and he enjoyed the supreme felicity of receiving, as his *share* of

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the receipts, the handsome sum of —— tenpence halfpenny! The manager's promises were still fair and consolatory; but the towns which he visited were small, and the profits of his exhibitions scarcely furnished the means of existence for himself and company; yet, such was Mr. Cherry's enthusiasm for the profession which he had chosen, that he endured a probation of ten months with this manager, constantly employed in the laborious study of almost all the principal characters in tragedy and comedy, without possessing a guinea during the whole of that period. Frequently, indeed, he was without the means of common sustenance, and so "steeped in poverty to the very lips," yet so industriously inclined to what he had undertaken, that his greatest concern generally arose from his want of money to purchase candles, by which to study the respective characters that were daily allotted to him.

Such is the distress which frequently attends the life of a strolling player, that, were it not for an unquenchable ardour that generally seizes on the children of Thespis, human fortitude would shrink from the misery to which they are exposed. An incident in Mr. Cherry's life illustrates this assertion. In the town of Athlone, in consequence of the benefits having turned out bad, the business of the theatre was suspended, the manager resolving not to waste any more bills, but to wait for the races which were to commence in a few days. Mr. Cherry being of a bashful and timid disposition, and possessing a due portion of youthful pride, was incapable of making those advances, and playing off that train of theatrical trickery, by which benefits are frequently obtained in the country,

country, and therefore he had been less successful than many of his colleagues. His landlady, perceiving that there was no very flattering prospect of future payment, satisfied herself for the trifle already due, by seizing on the remnant of his wardrobe; and, knowing that she could dispose of her lodgings to more advantage during the races, turned him out to the mercy of the winter's wind. His philosophy, however, did not forsake him. He rambled carelessly about the streets, sometimes quoting passages to himself, both comic and serious, that were analagous to his situation, but without forming one determined idea of where he was to rest his houseless head. Towards the close of the evening, rather accidentally than otherwise, he strolled into the lower part of the theatre, which had formerly been an inn, and was then occupied by a person, whose husband had been a sergeant of dragoons, for the purpose of retailing refreshments, &c. to the visitors of the theatre. After chatting until it grew late, the woman hinted to her guest that she wished to go to bed, and begged that he might retire. Cherry replied, in the words of *Don John*, "I was just thinking of going home, but that I have no lodging." Taking the words literally, the good woman enquired into the cause; and, being the mother of a family, she felt acutely for his distressed situation. At that time, he neither possessed a single halfpenny in the world, nor had the means of obtaining one. He endeavoured to assume a careless gaiety; but the poor woman's unaffected sympathy brought his own disobedience to mind, and he could not restrain his tears. In his grief he beheld the sorrow of his parents, whom he had deserted, to follow what he began to consider as a mad career,

career, in despite of the many unanswered remonstrances which he had received, with fair promises of pardon and affection, should he return "to reason and his shop." His kind, and truly philanthropic hostess, lamented that she could not furnish him with a bed, but proposed to lend him her husband's cloak, and to procure a bundle of dry hay, that he might sleep in an empty room in her house. His heart was too full to pay his gratitude in words; his eyes thanked her, he wept bitterly, accepted her kind offer, and retired to rest. To have intruded any farther on her goodness would have been painful to him, as she was struggling for the maintenance of a numerous offspring: he therefore studiously avoided the house at meal times, and wandered through the fields or streets, until he was convinced their repasts were finished. One night, however, so overcome by fasting and fatigue that he could not rest, he rose from his trooper's cloak, and explored the kitchen, searching the dresser, and all its shelves and drawers, in the hope of finding something that might satisfy the cravings of his appetite; but in vain. On his return to his hay-truss, he accidentally struck against the kitchen-table, the noise of which he feared might alarm the family, and, uninformed of the real cause of his midnight perambulation, might naturally suppose that his purpose was to rob the house, as a reward for the hospitality which he had experienced. This idea increased the misery that he then suffered. He trembled, and listened, but all was quiet. He then renewed his search---his hunger overcoming his fears---and, to his great joy, found a large crust of old brea d,which he was afterwards informed had been used for rubbing out spots of

of white paint from the very cloak that then composed his bedding. He, however, ate it with avidity, as he was entering on the fourth day, without having taken the least nourishment, and returned heart-felt thanks to providence, whose omnipotent hand had been stretched out, in the most critical moment, to preserve him from the dreadful fate of starving.

Happier times now succeeded. Every night, during the races, the theatre was crowded with company, by which means the actors were again indulged with the comforts of good eating and drinking, and Mr. Cherry was provided with the means of returning to his friends, by whom he was received with all the warmth of parental affection. He then determined to relinquish all ideas of the stage, and to attach himself solely to business; but the applause which he had received continually rung in his ears, and, amidst the comforts of ease and plenty, he soon forgot the drudgery of study, and the poignant want which he had been compelled to endure, whilst endeavouring to obtain it. The theatrical *mania* had taken fast hold of him, and, having " a soul above buttons," in a short time he resumed the profession of an actor. After making several short excursions, of but little moment, he joined the company of Mr. Richard William Knipe, a manager of much esteem in Ireland, and whose daughter Mr. Cherry afterwards married at Belfast. His probation had been a severe one, but it had put him in possession of considerable experience, and the fame which he was now daily acquiring in the north of Ireland, soon made its way to the capital. On Mr. Ryder's being engaged at Covent-Garden Theatre, Mr. Cherry was called upon by the Dublin manager

nager to supply that gentleman's place. This was considered to be a service of imminent danger, as, for more than thirty years Mr. Ryder* had been the unrivalled favourite of a Dublin audience.

Mr. Cherry, however, made the bold attempt, and was successful beyond his most sanguine expectations. It was in the winter of 1787, that he made his first appearance in the Smock-Alley Theatre, in the character of *Darby* in *The Poor Soldier*; and he continued for five years under the management of Mr. Daly, in full possession of public favour, and a range of comic characters as various as they were extensive.

The first original character which he performed in Dublin, was a spouting barber, in an entertainment called *The Hypochondriac*, which afforded great satisfaction to the author. † His reputation daily advanced, and he was regarded as an actor of considerable abilities; but, from the increase of his family, from the payments of the Smock-alley Theatre not being quite so regular or certain as those of the Bank of England, and from a variety of other inconveniences, arising from an oppressive and tyrannical system of management, his thoughts were directed towards an engagement in some of the provincial theatres of England. At first, the dread of breaking fresh ground had great weight with him; but the encouragement which he had received from the accomplished Miss Farren, with whom he had played all the principal characters during the preceding season, operated as a

* It is worthy of remark, that this performer had also been bred to the business of a printer.

† Mr. Franklin, author of *The Wandering Jew*, &c.

stimulus

stimulus to his wishes, and supported him under the idea of a trial, which then presented to him an arduously aweful appearance. While debating with himself on this interesting point, he received an offer from the late Tate Wilkinson, manager of the York theatre, to supply the place of Mr. Fawcett, who had obtained an engagement at Covent Garden. The offer was too favorable to be refused, and Mr. Cherry accordingly made his *entré* on the Wakefield boards, in the characters of *Vapid*, in *The Dramatist*, and *Lazarillo*, in *Two Strings to your Bow*. From his masterly delineation of these parts, he was received with such general approbation and applause, as gave him a delightful presage of future prosperity. He continued three years under Mr. Wilkinson's management, during which period he stood deservedly high in the favor of the public.

The manager of the Theatre-Royal Dublin, having made a summer engagement with Miss Farren, he was under the necessity of dispatching his deputy, Mr. Hitchcock, into Yorkshire, to re-engage Mr. Cherry to perform with her. This he accomplished, upon terms which appeared very flattering to Mr. Cherry, for nothing but the welfare of his family could have drawn him from a situation where his comforts were perfectly established; he therefore returned to Dublin, and appeared, with abundant greeting from his countrymen, in *Sir Peter Teazle*.

He continued two seasons in Ireland, during which time he produced two operatical pieces*, which were re-

* One of them we believe was entitled *The Outcasts; or Poor Bess and Little Dick*.

ceived at Crow Street theatre with general approbation. From the ungrateful and irregular conduct of the manager, however, he found it expedient to return to England; and, during one summer he performed at Birmingham, where he added much to his popularity and interest. He then entered into an engagement with Messrs. Ward and Banks, managers of the Manchester company, with whom he continued two years.

On the resignation of Mr. Blisset and Mr. W. Biggs, at the Bath Theatre, Mr. Cherry was invited thither, and made a most successful *entré* in the character of *Sir Bashful Constant.* Popular prejudice ran high in favor of Mr. Blisset, who had long been a deservedly established favorite of the Bath and Bristol audiences, yet Mr. Cherry experienced every approbation that his exertions warranted. Each new character gave him additional strength, and his performance of *Captain Bertram* in *The Birth-Day*, was pronounced by the Bath critics to be as highly finished a display of scenic art as ever had been witnessed on the boards of that theatre.

On the Bath stage, which has been long considered as a nursery for those of London, Mr. Cherry's professional reputation soon became fixed and determined, and, for four seasons, he enjoyed the most honorable patronage and support. When the veteran King retired from Drury-Lane theatre, Mr. Cherry obtained an engagement at that house, and presented himself to a London audience in the characters of *Sir Benjamin Dove*, in *The Brothers*, and *Lazarillo*, in *Two Strings to your Bow.*—After witnessing King's *Sir Benjamin Dove*, and Munden's *Lazarillo*, it may fairly be presumed, that a metropolitan audience would not readily

sanction

sanction the efforts of a new candidate in those parts, whose descriptive powers were not far above mediocrity. Mr. Cherry's reception was all that his warmest wishes could expect; and, to mention this is to offer the most substantial proof of the greatness of his talents.

A variety of other characters, both in stock pieces and originals, have been performed by Mr. Cherry with the happiest success. But it is not by his judicious acting alone, that Drury-Lane theatre has been benefited, and the town gratified; for, in the season of 1803-4, he produced the interesting comedy of *The Soldier's Daughtxr*, which enjoyed a longer run, and attracted more numerous audiences, than any comic piece for several years. Disdaining the buffoonery of farce, *The Soldier's Daughter* possesses high claims to the praise of legitimate comedy; yet we are told that it lay in the manager's hands for a considerable time before it was brought forward. We have also heard it mentioned, that another piece of his had been kept so long, that the plot was rendered obsolete by the production of other novelties.

Early in the season of 1804-5, Mr. Cherry produced a five-act comedy, which was accepted by the proprietors of Drury-Lane theatre, and was twice read in the Green Room, to the satisfaction of all the performers. The characters were cast, and written out, and every thing was put in train for its speedy representation. He also wrote an operatic drama, called *The Travellers*; the plan of which, was, in some degree, suggested by Mr. Corri, who has composed the music for it. The latter piece, we understand, is of an entirely *nouvelle* complexion, the action lying in several different

 countries

countries (China, Turkey, Italy, and England) in which the scenery, style of music, *costume*, &c. of each particular place, are most classically preserved; and, notwithstanding the unities are so materially broken, a general story and interest pervade the whole.

Both of the above-mentioned dramas were withheld to make way for the performances of Master Betty; and the industrious author was thereby deprived of the profits of his labor. They may hereafter meet the public eye: yet, when time is once lost it cannot be recovered; and, had they been brought forward in due course, it may fairly be presumed, that, in the interim, something of equal merit might have been struck off at the same mint. Mr. Cherry's loss is therefore irretrievable. The latter piece, however, is now in preparation at Drury-Lane, and will be produced, with splendid decorations, early in the present season. With a few exceptions, the cast of characters will unite the best efforts of the *corps dramatique*, both vocal and rhetorical.

On the 18th of July last, a comedy in three acts, by Mr. Cherry, called *The Village* "not *translated*, but *taken*, from the French", as Sheridan humourously expresses it—was performed at the Theatre-Royal in the Hay-Market. This play, we understand from the best authority, had, on perusal, been instantly accepted by Mr. Colman, from a conviction that its success upon the boards was unquestionable. Those who are acquainted with the genius and writings of that gentleman will not, we presume, dispute his taste or judgment in dramatic concerns. Indeed, should such sceptics exist, had they but been present at his reading of *The Village*, in the Green Room, and attended to his point-

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ed discrimination, and the varied coloring which he gave to each character and situation, they must, by force, have become converts to his consummate knowledge. However, in despite of Mr. Colman's opinion and exertions respecting its success, the piece *failed* in representation! Mr. Cherry was then acting in Manchester, and consequently had not an opportunity of correcting such errors, or of lopping off such excrescences, as are generally obvious to a dramatic writer, in the various rehearsals of his play. But this was not the sole cause of its failure; for, to every unprejudiced spectator, it was evident that the piece had enemies *before the curtain*, who, with that celerity of decision which precedes enquiry, had determined its condemnation. Had the voice of disapprobation been general, and had Mr. Cherry been upon the spot, we have too exalted an opinion of his good sense, to imagine that, for a moment, he would have hesitated to withdraw the play, and to bow, with implicit respect and submission, to the fiat of an unbiassed public. But, as the piece had enemies *before* the curtain, it was deficient in supporters *behind*. Something was *rotten in the state of Denmark*. Whether from personal dislike to the author, or from some other hidden cause, we have not been able to ascertain; but it has been roundly asserted, and on good authority, that the disaffection of the performer of one of the principal characters operated strongly against the effect which was intended to be produced by his exertions. After the second night's representation, this gentleman, to crown his endeavours, stepped boldly forward, and with *emphatic solemnity*, told the audience, that *he applauded their justice in condemning the piece*, as THEIR *opinion*

PERFECTLY COINCIDED WITH HIS OWN!!!—— This circumstance is worthy of being recorded: for, previously, the annals of the drama cannot furnish a solitary instance, of any performer presuming, publicly, to give his decision on an author's work, to the injury of that author's fame and profit; amounting, at the same time, to a tacit assurance from him, that the proprietors of the theatre were incapable of judging, and consequently unqualified to act as caterers for the amusement of a discerning and enlightened public.

A severe indisposition, occasioned by a cold contracted at Manchester, confined Mr. Cherry to his bed during the whole of last summer, and prevented his fulfilling some literary engagements, into which he had entered for the theatres, that might hereafter have increased his reputation as a dramatic author, and have yielded their portion of pecuniary assistance towards the education and support of a numerous family, for whose comfort, happiness, and advancement in life, his most industrious efforts are ever anxiously employed.

It was reasonably expected by the public, when the death of poor *Suett* had left an opening in the theatre wherein Mr. Cherry's talents might be brought into action, that they should be indulged with more frequent opportunities of receiving gratification from the exertions of a performer, who, on his very first outset, had made so powerful an impression, and from whom so much might be expected. It is to be lamented, however, that there are so many wheels within wheels in the internal management of a theatre, that actors who have not great interest, or great good fortune, have seldom the opportunity of appearing before an audience

with advantage. Formerly, the devotees of the sock and buskin made their *entrées* in characters of minor importance, and soared to the higher walks of the stage as their abilities permitted; but this salutary practice has long been discontinued; characters are now distributed with a partial hand, and the members of the histrionic profession are considered too much in the light of mechanics, by being engaged to perform a *particular line of business*, from which, whatever may be their talents, they are not permitted to diverge.

In private life, Mr. Cherry is distinguished by an urbanity of manners, and a willingness to oblige, which procure him the unqualified esteem of those who are so fortunate as to possess his acquaintance. He has an amiable and accomplished partner; and several children, whose precocious talents hold forth a flattering prospect of future excellence.

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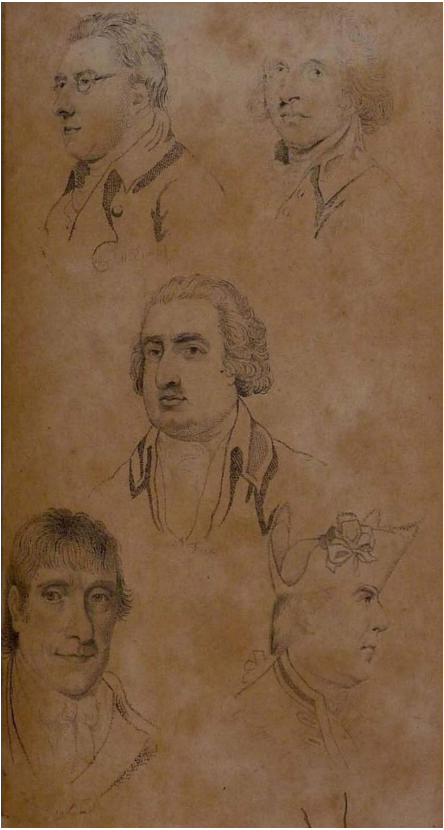
THE REV. JOHN EVANS, A. M.

THE life of a clergyman, of one who, anxious only for the faithful discharge of his pastoral duties, devotes his life to useful study, cannot be expected to abound with incident. The exercise of Christian charity is remote from the discordant clashings of controversy, and the tumultuous throbs of ambition; it excites attention only in the reflecting mind; and, though entitled to general veneration, it obtains the applauses of the virtuous only. Little, however, as the following sketch is calculated to surprise, and faint as is the outline, we are persuaded that many readers will be gratified by its appearance.

The Rev. John Evans, A. M. well known in religious society by his *Sketch of the Denominations of the Christian World*, and a variety of other useful publications, drew his first breath at Usk, in Monmouthshire, in the year 1767. His ancestors have been dissenting ministers for upwards of a hundred years; and, from his birth we believe, he was intended to tread in their footsteps.* With that period of his life, in which

* The late Dr. Caleb Evans, and his venerable father, the Rev. Hugh Evans, A. M. who presided for many years over *The Bristol Education Society*, may, we believe, be reckoned among the ancestors of Mr. Evans. Of this, however, we are not certain.

merely



merely the rudimental branches of education are presumed to have been acquired, we are unacquainted; but, in 1780, at the age of sixteen, he went to the Dissenting Academy at Bristol, where he remained till 1787. He then went to King's College, Aberdeen, where he continued to prosecute his studies with considerable industry till the year 1790, in the course of which time he took up his degree. Mr. Evans next passed a year at Edinburgh; where, in April, 1791, he completed his education. In the month of November following, he settled in London; since which period, to the present time, he has continued to officiate, as morning-preacher, at the Baptist Meeting, in Worship-street.

Mr. Evans's *Sketch of the Denominations of the Christian World*, alluded to above, has, in the course of a very few years, passed through nine editions, amounting in the whole to twenty-five thousand impressions. Such an unusually large circulation of so valuable a work, cannot fail of having contributed, " in some degree to extend the empire of religious knowledge and Christian charity." In addition to this, however, it has been reprinted in America, most probably also in Ireland, and has been translated into the French and German languages on the Continent. From the spirit of candour, and of Christian liberality, which pervades this publication, it is entitled to all the attention which it has experienced. " Believing those who differ from us," says the author, " to be the disciples of error, they have a claim on our compassion. And as a farther incentive to our lenient conduct, it should be remembered that *we differ from them just as much as they do from us.* By either party, therefore, no

anathema

anathema should be hurled, and a proneness to persecution should be eradicated." The performance, indeed, which is obnoxious to no sect, may be considered as acceptable to all.

The success of this work induced our author to write a *Sequel* to the *Sketch*, in which he has brought together the testimony of divines of the church of England, of the kirk of Scotland, and of the different classes of dissenters, in behalf of candour and charity.

From the commencement of his ministry, Mr. Evans has been distinguished for his loyalty and patriotism. In October, 1803, the day appointed for a national fast, he delivered a sermon at Worship-street chapel, in which these virtues shone eminently conspicuous. To this sermon, which was afterwards published, he very appropriately subjoined an account of the defeat of the Spanish armada.

Previously to this, he had reprinted a loyal tract, entitled, *An Address to the Inhabitants of Britain, founded on the Advice of Nehemiah to the Jews.* This, for which he deserved the approbation and thanks of the country, drew down upon him the animadversions of a quaker, who, with a degree of perverseness and folly little short of insanity, censured *all* resistance to the expected invasion.

Indeed, when we reflect on the various virtues of this character, we are at a loss which most to admire,—his uniform and exemplary conduct as a minister, his public spirit as a writer, or his indefatigable exertions in the education of youth. With respect to the first of these points, it should be observed, that the duty is of the highest importance to us, as to our present existence, and our state hereafter. In a patriotic view, we

we are acquainted with no character more entitled to the thanks of his country, than the man who boldly stands forward, at a period when even the very existence of civilised society is threatened with immediate destruction, and contributes his share towards the public support. Precluded from bearing arms by the peculiar nature of his occupation, we find our author anxiously displaying his zeal for his country, by effusions of the heart, the most loyal and encouraging; and, in his last employment, we find him sedulously directing his attention towards the improvement of the minds of the rising generation. Not only in privately *teaching*, but in *writing* for the benefit of youth, Mr. Evans is most industriously occupied.

The education of youth, we may fairly presume, will be admitted as one of the most important, and most arduous concerns, in which it is possible for an individual to be engaged. Were it not that our limits prevent us, we could expatiate at large on the irksome nature of this very necessary duty; instead of which, however, we shall content ourselves with some brief remarks on the *national importance* of education.

It is by the early impressions made on the minds of youth, that their future actions are regulated; and by which, in a greater or less degree, the happiness and well-being of society are materially affected. In ancient times, this branch of political economy engaged the attention of the greatest legislators. The Persians, the Egyptians, and the Chinese, made it the basis of their government; and, even in revolutionary France, some futile attempts have been made to form a plan of *national* education. Man is the only sensible being whose reason becomes matured by a repetition, or

rather

rather continuity of observation. His education begins with his life, and ends only with his death. His days would pass away in perpetual uncertainty, unless the novelty of objects, and the flexibility of his brain in infancy, gave to the impressions of his early years a character not to be effaced: at that period are formed the tastes and observations which influence his whole life. His first affections are likewise his last. They accompany him amidst all the events with which his days are chequered; they reappear in old age, and revive the recollections of infancy with still more force than even those of mature age.

> "Happy the man, that on life's setting day,
> 'Mid the fair scenes of youthful bliss shall stand,
> And think of those, the partners of his play,
> By various fortune cast on either hand:
> Of some, perhaps, who prest a foreign strand,
> In manly thought, and generous valour high,
> Martyrs to glory for their native land;
> Who, as the tear yet wets his aged eye,
> That rendered life more sweet, can teach him how to die!"

The justice of these observations is verified, and brought home to our own bosoms, even on a moment's recollection; and, in further confirmation of them, we shall here give place to an instance adduced by M. de St. Pierre, which may, perhaps, be worthy of notice.

"When I was in the Russian service," says this admired writer, "I frequently dined at the table of his excellency, M. de Villebois, grand-master of the ordnance, and general of the corps of artillery to which I belonged. I observed on all these occasions, something, but what I could not tell, of a grey color and similar

milar in form to small pebbles, was brought him on a plate. He ate of this dish very heartily, without offering it to any one, though his entertainments were in the most elegant style, and there was not a single dish besides that was not presented to the lowest of his guests. He, one day, perceived me looking attentively at his favorite mess, and asked me, with a smile, if I wished to taste it. I accepted his offer, and found that it consisted of small lumps of curdled milk, salted and intermixed with aniseeds: but so hard and tough, that I had the greatest difficulty to force my teeth through them, but to swallow them was totally impossible. "These," said the grand-master to me, "are the cheeses of my native country. It is a taste which I acquired in my childhood. I was accustomed, among our peasants, to this coarse preparation from milk.—When I am travelling, and am at a distance from any town, on approaching a village, I send my servants and my carriage before; and it then affords me the greatest pleasure to go unattended, and muffled up in my cloak, into the house of the first peasant, and to eat a pot of curdled milk with brown bread. In my last journey into Livonia, I met with an adventure which highly diverted me. While I was breakfasting in this manner, a man entered singing and carrying a bundle on his shoulder. He seated himself beside me, and desired the landlord to give him a mess like mine. I asked this traveller so gay whence he came, and to what part he was going. 'I am a sailor,' replied he, 'and have just arrived from India. I landed at Riga, and am returning to Herland, my native country, where I have not been these three years. I shall stay there

there till I have spent these hundred crowns,' continued he, shewing me a leathern bag, and rattling the money. I asked him several questions concerning the countries he had seen, and he answered me with much good sense. 'But,' said I, 'when you have spent your hundred crowns, what will you do then?' 'I shall return to Holland,' said he, 'and embark again for India, to earn more, that I may again return and amuse myself in my native country, Herland, in Franconia.' The good-humor and thoughtlessness of the man diverted me exceedingly," continued the grand-master.—"In truth, I envied his situation."

In addition to the works already noticed, Mr. Evans has published *The Juvenile Tourist; or, Excursions through England and Wales,* which has been favourably received, and, we believe, is now generally used as an English class-book in the most respectable seminaries of education in England. That our readers may be enabled to judge of the nature of this work, we shall introduce the author's own words:

"To relieve the anxieties of a laborious profession, the author has been in the habit of spending his *summer vacations* in the country. Hence arose the following excursions, when he took an opportunity of visiting some pleasant parts of this highly favored island.—Upon his return he committed to paper, in the form of *letters,* an account of what he had seen, together with the observations which occurred to his mind. The whole was inserted in a series of the numbers of the Monthly Visitor. Their flattering reception among his friends, induced the writer to amuse himself during this *last* summer vacation, which he passed at home, by

by revising the several letters, and publishing them in the present separate form, with considerable alterations and improvements. The volume, therefore, might have been literally denominated *Vacation*, or *Midsummer Fruits*; but the quaintness of such a title forbade its adoption.

"The ignorance which young people, of both sexes, too often betray, respecting their own country, has been the reason for devoting these pages, in a more peculiar manner, by means of *historical anecdotes* and *poetical extracts*, to the instruction of the rising generation. This circumstance must also apologize, in the eye of candour, for the introduction of some things which might be thought trivial, were they not deemed subservient to youthful improvement. The writer, indeed, must be permitted to add, that he has found such a mode of teaching geography, peculiarly advantageous in his own seminary.

"Such is the origin—and such the humble pretensions, of the "Juvenile Tourist." Having been composed with care, and revised at leisure, the author trusts it will be found neither an unuseful nor an unentertaining *sequel* to his *Geography*, which has been introduced into schools of respectability. Indeed, this work may be esteemed an amplification of the *third* part of that little treatise which is appropriated to a description of Great Britain:

"A precious Stone, set in the silver sea!"

"The maps having been engraven *expressly* for these *Excursions*, and containing the name of every town which the author visited in his route, will, he hopes,

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prove an useful as well as pleasing embellishment to the work. May this attempt, (with whatever imperfections it may be attended) to point out the *natural, civil,* and *religious* advantages of his beloved country, fan the hallowed flame of patriotism, of virtue, and of christianity!"

It has passed through the first edition; and prefixed to the second, we find the following statement:

"The sale of near *two thousand* copies of the "Juvenile Tourist," in the course of little more than *twelve* months, is a proof of its favorable reception with the public. Nor can the author refrain from gratefully acknowledging the candour and attention with which it has been honoured. He has now carefully revised every page of the work, and hopes that the *additions* and *improvements* may render it still further subservient to the entertainment and instruction of the rising generation.

Mr. Evans's farther productions consist of an *Attempt to account for the Infidelity of Edward Gibbon, Esq.—An Address to the General Baptists—An Address to Young People, on the importance of Religion—Reflections on a View of London from off the Monument—An Essay on the Education of Youth*—and *An Epitome of Geography, for the Use of Schools.* He has also published *A Sermon on the re-opening of the General Baptist Meeting, at Deptford—A Sermon on the late Peace—A Sermon on the Decease of Drs. Kippis, Stennet, and Harris;* and sermons on the respective deaths of the Rev. C. Bulkley, and of Mrs. Pine, of Maidstone. The public are farther indebted to him for the editing of some neat editions of Milton's *Paradise Lost* and *Regain'd,* with the

the notes of the learned Bishop Newton, judiciously abridged; the *Beauties* of Young's *Night Thoughts*, *Goldsmith's Poems*, *Thomson's Seasons*, &c.

Mr. Evans was married in 1795. For some time, he instructed a certain number of private pupils; but, since the year 1797, he has kept an academy, formerly at Hoxton, but now at Islington.

HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS

PRINCESS JOSEPH BUONAPARTE.

"THE French nation," says the late Dr. Moore, "have indeed shewn themselves so disorderly and ferocious when they had any degree of liberty, and so polite and submissive under tyranny, that we are almost tempted to believe that there is something in the very essence of the French which renders a despotic government necessary for them, whether the form be monarchical or republican. There are animals of so wild a nature," he continues, "as not to be kept from mischief by any other means than chains, muzzles, and iron cages. However tame and caressing they may appear when under control, they will tear the very hand they used to lick, the instant they are unmuzzled and free."

That these observations are, in part, just, is fully evident from the progress of the late dreadful revolution. The French have proved themselves wholly incapable of appreciating the value of liberty; and are consequently undeserving its inestimable blessings. From the tyranny of the Bourbons—which, though moderately exercised, was still despotic—they passed into the boundless wilds of licentiousness; and, unable to discriminate between virtue and its opposite, have sunk beneath the horrors of an iron reign, and

 now

now fawningly crouch at the blood-stained footstool of a base-born upstart.* Like the *wild animals* alluded to by Dr. Moore, they may, indeed, be *tame and caressing* to their *keepers*; but they still retain and display their ferocious character when opportunity suits.

A modern writer has observed, that Frenchmen's brains are the lightest matter that God Almighty ever created. Others, however, contend, that they must be composed of the most ponderous and gravitating materials, or their possessors would never have condescended to prostrate themselves before the throne of Buonaparte, or to idolise the members of that dynasty which now tyrannises over France.

We have been led to these remarks from contemplating the present degraded state of France, and the string of *Imperial Highnesses*, the family connexions of Buonaparte, who now fatten on the revenues and produce of that devoted country.†

It

* Speaking of liberty and licentiousness, the late Lord Chatham observed, that it was extremely hard to distinguish the true limits between them. "Like a changeable silk," says he, "we can easily see there are two different colours, but we cannot easily discover where the one ends, or where the other begins."

† Exclusively of Monsieur and Madame Lucien Buonaparte, of Monsieur Jerome Buonaparte and his wife, *ci-devant* Miss Patterson, and of Charlotte Buonaparte, Princess of Santa Cruz, who have not been honoured by the new Emperor with the title of *Imperial Highness*, there are the following: Their Imperial Princess, Letitia Buonaparte, the mother of the Buonapartes; their Imperial Highnesses, Prince and Princess Joseph Buonaparte; their Imperial Highnesses, Prince and Princess Louis Buonaparte; her Imperial Highness, Princess Eliza Buonaparte, Sovereign Princess of Piombino, *alias* Madame Bacchiochi; her Imperial

It was long an admired maxim in France, that *le crime fait la honte, et non pas l'echaffaud*; but this maxim must have been long forgotten, or those who now bend beneath a weight of *republican* and IMPERIAL *honours*, would sink beneath that overwhelming load of shame, which ought ever to crush the infamous perpetrators of crime.

We are informed, by the author of *The French Revolutionary Plutarch*, that Maria Julia Clary, the subject of the present sketch, was the daughter of a chandler, in a village in the south of France; and that, on the 24th of September, 1794, at the age of seventeen, she was married to Napoleon Joseph Buonaparte, who then officiated as clerk to a petti-fogging attorney. Shakespeare tells us, that " some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." The last seems to have been the case with M. Joseph Buonaparte, who now bears the rank of Imperial Highness, is a Grand Elector of the French empire, a Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour, &c. &c. with a revenue of 10,000,000 livres, or 420,000l. sterling. On the other hand, the admirers of Maria Julia will perhaps contend, that she is one of those who, from their birth, are destined to make a conspicuous figure; as, in her native village, she was an heiress; her uncle, who had been a sailor, having at his death bequeathed to her the whole of his property, amounting to 600 livres, about equal to the

Imperial Highness, Maria Paulette Buonaparte, Princess de Borghese, *ci-devant* Madame Le Clerc; and her Imperial Highness Annunciade Caroline Buonaparte, Princess (*ci-devant* Madame) Murat.—*Risum teneatis amici !*

immense

immense sum of five-and-twenty pounds! Maria Julia had consequently a numerous train of suitors, and many were the rivals with whom his Imperial Highness *in petto* had to contend. But the sublime passion of love is not to be suppressed by the intervention of common obstacles; and, with the most enthusiastic and determined resolution, aided by that spirit of artifice which he had probably imbibed in the course of his *legal* pursuits, M. Joseph Buonaparte ultimately secured the prize, and triumphed over all his rivals.

It may, perhaps, gratify some of our fair readers, to be informed who, and what, were the distinguished personages that presumed to contend for the favours of the village heiress. One of them, we are told, was a master chimney-sweeper, another a master barber, and a third, though *last*, apparently not *least* in love, was a journeyman tailor. The ludicrous assertion, that *a taylor is only the ninth part of a man*, is probably unknown in the *enlightened* country of France; for it appears that, at one time, the wielder of the bodkin and shears was regarded by Julia Maria with the most favourable eye. Gratitude, perhaps, stimulated her passion. The taylor had made a great coat for Mademoiselle Clary, which fitted her so well, that it excited the envy of all the other village *belles*; and, in return, the amiable Maria Julia could not refrain from evincing a tender preference for so useful a lover. At the Sunday *quatre-sous*, or twopenny balls, held at the inn of *le Grand Monarque*, she seemed to prefer romping and dancing with her journeyman taylor rather than with M. Buonaparte, *le procureur*.

It is an established maxim in war, and its practice has

has been often resorted to in love, that, *where the lion's skin will not prevail, one must put on the fox's tail*; and as M. *le procureur* was aware of the superior strength of the taylor's arm, he was under the necessity of resorting to stratagem for his removal. After much profound cogitation, he at length hit upon an expedient for ridding himself of this most dangerous of rivals. A captain of a recruiting party had for some days established his head-quarters in the neighbourhood of the village. This officer happened to be a friend of the then *sans-culotte* Colonel Napoleon Buonaparte, now emperor of France, and to him Monsieur Joseph applied for assistance. The register of the parish had been destroyed; and as the taylor was unable to prove his age, he was claimed by the captain as a conscript. *Le Bulletin Imperial* states, that, notwithstanding the opposition of the municipality, the unfortunate taylor was marched off to join the army of the Pyrennees, there to exercise his profession in renovating the tattered garments of his *sans-culotte* comrades.

The poor barber was alarmed at this summary mode of proceeding; and, as he knew himself to be of the same age as the taylor, he thought it better to mow beards in a distant province, than to incur the risk of being himself mown down in the field of battle, and therefore decamped. Thus were two of Monsieur Joseph's rivals removed. The chimney-sweeper, however, still kept the field, and continued his courtship, until the fair object of his affection had fixed on the next *decade*, or republican holiday, as the day on which her nuptials with M. Joseph Buonaparte were to be celebrated at the municipalty; and, according

to the *new* order of things, her marriage to be sanctioned by the reputable mayor of the village, who also exercised the honourable functions of a schoolmaster.

The marriage-contract was solemnized in the presence of the bride's father and mother, and of her two maternal uncles, Timotheus Galliard, a wooden shoemaker, (*un sabotier*) and François Galliard, a groom. It is said, however, that these respectable personages, not being gifted in the scriptorial art—or, in plainer English, their education having terminated before they had learned to read or write—were under the necessity of applying their *marks* instead of their *signatures*, to the contract.

It is worthy of notice, that the mayor of the village though a schoolmaster and a learned clerk, was not a clergyman. This was of no consequence to *republicans*; but *Imperial Highnesses* have more correct, exalted, and pious notions of things; and, in consequence of the present *reformed* state of morality and religion in France, their *Imperial Highnesses*, Prince and Princess Joseph Buonaparte, were *re-married* by the pope, on the 9th of January, 1805.

Whether they gave *une grande fête* on the occasion of their *second* marriage, we have not been informed; but, we learn, from *Le Bulletin Imperial*, that, for the celebration of their *first* wedding, an *elegant* ball was given at the inn of *Le Grand Monarque*, the expences of which amounted to twelve *livres*, including music, and a dozen of wine at three *sous* per bottle! the bride and bridegroom, and the wedding guests, continued to dance till the following morning, when Monsieur and Madame Clary gave the signal for retreat.

In

In addition to her immense dowry of 600 *livres*, all in hard cash, the following has been mentioned as an inventory of her wardrobe, &c. which she brought with her to her husband's apartment, a back-room, up two pair of stairs, at a blacksmith's——viz. two gowns, two *chemises*, two petticoats, two neckerchiefs, one pocket-handkerchief, one comb, two pair of shoes, one pair of wooden shoes (a present of uncle Timothèe's) and a *horse-whip*, a present of uncle *François*. The latter, it is probable, might have been *intended* for the use of the husband.

Thus triumphantly and auspiciously did Monsieur Joseph Buonaparte commence his matrimonial career. He won the fair one, and consequently deserved to wear her. "Keen observers," says the author of "*The Female Revolutionary Plutarch*, "predicted thence, that the able politician, who, in a love affair of such consequence, had been clever enough to defeat the conspiracies and plans of his powerful rivals and carry his point, would certainly in state affairs, one day prove himself to be the first negociator in the world, overthrow the common efforts of the enemies of the French Republic, and counterbalance the intrigues of neutrals and the jealousy of allies."

Six months after the union of this amiable couple, the lady presented her husband with a son and heir. This instance of premature fecundity furnished the gossips of the village with an object of slander, and the prudes—a few of those *black swans* still existing in France—with a subject of malicious scandal. All the parties exerted their tongues; and, while the father was proud of having a son in so short a time, the whispers of scandal insinuated, that the infant resembled

bled the taylor, the barber, and even the chimney-sweeper, more than Joseph Buonaparte.

In this country, such a circumstance would have reflected a degree of odium on a woman, from which it would not have been easy to escape; but, as Sterne says, " they manage these things better in France." In the course of a week the expected heir of all his acknowledged father's virtues, terminated his brief existence; and, according to the advice of the midwife—an aunt of her Imperial Highness, who happened to follow that ancient and honourable vocation —to silence all farther tittle-tattle, the parents thought it expedient to announce the birth as a miscarriage.

It is remarkable that, from the period now mentioned till the year 1801, Madame Joseph had no children; and, as the visits of Eugenius de Beauharnois, the son of the present Empress Josephine, had become very frequent at his uncle's during 1800, her enemies did not fail to ascribe to his presence the appearance of one daughter on the 8th of July, 1801, and of another on the 31st of October, 1802. It is said that Monsieur Joseph very politely requested his nephew to bestow his attention in some other quarter. Be this as it may, since the absence of Eugenius, Madame has furnished no increase to the family stock of the Buonapartes.

A more brilliant sphere now opened on the ken of our fair heroine. In the year 1796, for the first time she was introduced into the revolutionary court circles of the Directory; and, in 1787, in consequence of some unsuccessful attentions which are understood to have been paid to her by the Director Barras, she undertook a journey to Italy, where, after the peace

peace of Campo Formio, Monsieur Joseph had been nominated an ambassador to the court of Rome. Having succeeded in his mission to dethrone and imprison a respectable pontiff, and, in the name of liberty and equality, to organize the worst of all tyrannies, that of a sovereign mob, Joseph returned to Paris with his wife, and settled there, being elected a deputy in the council of five hundred. When Napoleon the Great had seized on the throne of the Bourbons, he appointed his brother Joseph a counsellor of state, and presented his lady, as a Christmas-box, in December 1799, the elegant hotel which she occupies, on the condition that she should *improve* her education.

Before that time, however, it is recorded by the author to whom we are chiefly indebted for the facts of this sketch, "her imperial highness knew very well how to knit and mend stockings, how to work and get up linen, how to starch and bleach, how to cook and preserve, how to brush and scour; but she was entirely unacquainted with those petty acquirements---that agreeable littleness---those vicious frivolities---that studied meanness, which were intended to constitute at the revolutionary imperial court good breeding and *haut ton*."

Her domestic qualifications indeed appear to have been almost as numerous, and as valuable, as those of her fair sister-in-law, her Imperial Highness Eliza Buonaparte, Princess of Poimbino. "If any farmer want an able housewife," said the good old lady, Madame Lætitia Buonaparte, * "any cattle-keeper a

* *Vide* Le Bulletin Imperial.

good

good dairy-maid, any inn-keeper an attentive and clean bar or chamber-maid, or any bleacher an expert laundress, my Eliza is a valuable match. She will keep at home for months, never going out but to hear mass or to make her confession, continually looking after the house, watching, instructing, and, when necessary, scolding the servants. She can milk the cows or goats to perfection, churn butter to a nicety, discover cows lost in the woods, or runaway goats capering upon the mountains. She can bake bread, brew beer, feed pigs, and nurse lambs or kids. She is a competent judge of good wines, spirits, and *liqueurs*; can mix negus, punch, or syllabubs, lemonade, coffee, or chocolate; can make feather or straw beds: can sweep to perfection sitting and bed-rooms; and, by splashing and mangling, can spare the washing of sheets and curtains for years. By a method of her own, and invented by herself, she hangs up, lays down, or spreads out her linen in such a systematic manner, that not a drop of rain, or a ray of sun, is lost to whiten or to dry them. For citizens of such description, of such occupation, my Eliza is an inestimable treasure."

Such qualifications, however, were but ill adapted to the sphere of a court; and, though Madame Joseph had somewhat less of rusticity in her manners than her sister-in-law, *improvement* was still requisite. Madame Napoleon Buonaparte therefore, now her Imperial majesty, the Empress Josephine, was ordered to spare her a teacher of languages, a writing and a dancing master, a master of ceremonies, a *coëfeur*, and a governess, to superintend the education of Madame Joseph.

Such

Such was the aptitude of Madame Joseph's genius, and such were her assiduity and application, that, in the course of three months, Madame Napoleon began to fear a *rivalité* of excellence; and, without waiting for orders, she recalled the instructors whom she had lent to her sister-in-law. The advantages, however, which our fair *eleve* had already acquired, proved fully sufficient to gain her the admiration of all the revolutionary courtiers in the palace of the Thuilleries. Her gait and manners were wholly changed. She who had before been timid, bashful, aukward, and somewhat inclined to *devotion*, now moved with elegance and grace; was as free, as easy, as bold as daring, and as gallant as Madame Napoleon, or any other of her *noble* relatives. So indefatigable indeed was her attention, so ardent her desire for *improvement*, that soon after, during the absence of her husband at Luneville and Amiens, she continued to take every night at Monfontains, the *private* lessons of her dancing master. Nor was Monsieur Joseph deficient in gratitude for the generous exertions of this *maitre-de-danse*; for, in the summer of 1802, he obligingly obtained an order from his brother Napoleon for sending him to Cayenne, vested with the *exclusive* privilege of continuing during his life, an exclusive *maitre-de-danse d'honneur*, to all transported persons of both sexes in that colony.

After the lamented murder of the Duke of Enghein, of the Generals Pichegru and Georges, and after the assumption of the Imperial purple by Napoleon the Great, Monsieur Joseph and his lady were elevated to the rank of Imperial Highnesses. The private and annual allowance of our *created* Princess, is said

to

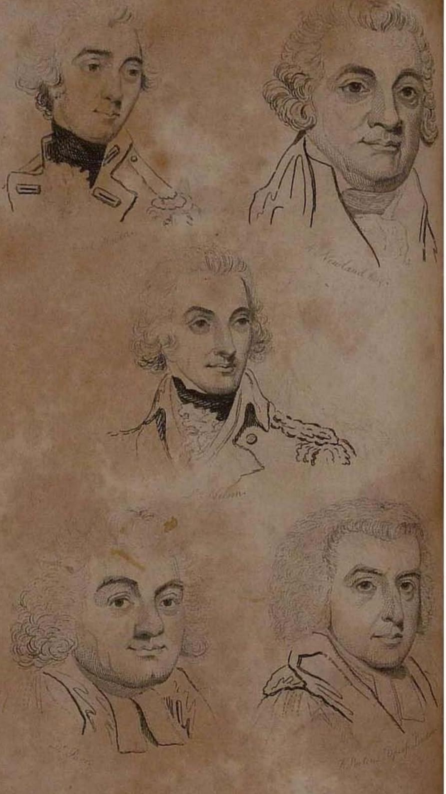
to amount to 3,000,000 *livres*, or 125,000l. sterling; and her jewels, plate, china, pictures, &c. are estimated at 3,500,000 *livres*. Her establishment is proportionably splendid and extensive. A bishop is her almoner, and two grand vicars are her chaplains; Madame (the *ci-devant* Marchioness) de Girardin is her lady in waiting; Mesdames Dessoles, Dupuy, and Miot, are her maids of honour; the senator Jaucour is her first, and the counsellor of state Dumas, her second chamberlain; the tribune *le ci-devant Marquis de Girardin*, is her master of horse; the Colonels Cavaignac and Lafond Blanie, are her equerries; the tribune Villot Freville is her secretary; and a M. James is the steward of her household, under whom there are sixty-two other persons.

Nothwithstanding the splendid and expensive style in which they live, both at their country-seat Montfontains, and at their hotel in Paris, their Imperial Highnesses are said to be in the habit of seeing very little company, except the respective members of their own family. Their conduct, as well in public as in private, exhibits the extreme of *hauteur* and self importance.

How different is the deportment of these base-born upstarts, from that unfortunate family which formerly presided over the French nation. "Marie Antoinette, the late Queen of France," says Dr. Moore, an author whom we have before quoted, "loved to descend from the throne, that she might enjoy the comforts of society. Her natural impressions as a woman had more influence on her conduct than the artificial deportment dictated to her as a queen. Howuver necessary the pomp of etiquette, and the frigidity of reserve, may be

to high-born dulness and insipid vanity, they were tasteless and fatiguing to a beautiful and lively woman, inspired with the desire, and conscious of the power of pleasing. Her heart delighted in the confidence of friendship, and preferred that style of society where there was at least an appearance of equality. She distinguished people not so much by the various gradations and shades of heraldry, but as they seemed more or less accomplished or amiable; and by this means mortally offended many illustrious persons of both sexes who had no pretensions of that nature."

In meditating such a contrast who can refrain from wishing, that the ancient state of things were restored?



THE LATE RIGHT HONOURABLE

HORATIO,

LORD VISCOUNT NELSON, K. B. &c.

.... "ne'er did man, with such bright glory clothed
Bear him so meek. To God he gave the praise,
Owning himself his humble minister."

"Immortal in the womb of time,
His worth descends to ancient days;
Glorious and great, in pleasing rhyme,
Infants unborn shall lisp his praise."

As the most distinguished naval officer of the present, or perhaps of any former age, it was uniformly our intention to present a sketch of the illustrious Nelson, as our first tribute to naval merit. His almost unparalleled bravery irresistibly attracted our attention; and, when we contemplated the various excellencies of his character, the many virtues of his manly generous heart, we experienced a sentiment approaching to veneration. The tool of no party, the parasite of no administration, in Lord Nelson we beheld a perfect model of the hero and the patriot; of one, whose country's welfare was his first and only aim. Alas, that that country should have, so early, to deplore his loss! His lordship was one of those rare characters,

whose fair fame not even the contagious breath of calumny had ever presumed to taint. "He was a man, take him for all in all, we shall not look upon his like again."

When our intention was formed, of presenting the life of Lord Nelson, as our first naval sketch, we indeed hoped that we might have to record some new victory, achieved by the mighty prowess of his arm; but, though doubtful is the fate of war, we had not reflected that we might be called upon to embalm his memory with our tears. In common with every British subject, with every man who feels as he ought to feel upon the occasion, this is now our sad and melancholy duty.

> "How sleep the brave, who sink to rest,
> By all their country's wishes blest."

Horatio, Lord Viscount Nelson, the lamented subject of the present sketch, was the fourth son of the late Rev. Edward Nelson, rector of Burnham Thorpe, in the county of Norfolk; and of Miss Catherine Suckling, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Suckling, prebendary of Westminster. He was born on the 29th of September, 1758. The honour of educating him was shared by the high school of Norwich, where he imbibed the first rudiments of learning, and by a seminary at North Walsham in the same county. A man, whose piety was so exalted at the close of life, may be supposed to have been brought up with strong religious impressions. His father, indeed, could give him little else than a good education; but, owing to his paternal instructions, a strictness of honour, a large and enlightened morality

rality in his conduct towards men, and an unpresuming confidence ABOVE, have, throughout his life, distinguished our naval hero.

In 1770, at the early age of twelve years, Horatio was entered on board the Raisonable, of 64 guns, commanded by his maternal uncle, Captain Suckling, and then commissioned on a view of hostilities between Great Britain and Spain, relative to the Falkland Islands. The dispute being compromised, the Raisonable was paid off, and Horatio was sent on board a merchantman in the West India trade. Returning home in 1772, he was received on board his uncle's ship, the Trident. During his trip to the West Indies, he had acquired a practical knowledge of seamanship, but had conceived an unusual prejudice against the naval service. *Aft the most honour, but forward the better man,* was the sentiment in which he seemed to indulge. To recover his nephew from this improper bias was the task of Captain Suckling, in which, by stimulating the ambition of the youth, he happily succeeded.

At the age of fifteen, young Nelson proceeded with Captain Lutwidge, accompanying Captain Phipps, afterwards Lord Mulgrave, on a voyage of discovery towards the north pole. Instructions had been issued, that no boys should be permitted to sail with this expedition; but the enterprising Horatio was so anxious to be of the party, that, after much solicitation, he was appointed coxswain to Captain Lutwidge. During this voyage, he behaved with that peculiar intrepidity which has been one of the leading characteristics of his life. If any thing were in extremes, it was his courage. Indeed, with him, courage was not a passion, but a principle:

principle: he could make even an excess virtuous and graceful, and exalt rashness into fortitude. In all his actions, an *agrément* of mind was visible. It is related of him that, when quite a child, and on a visit to his grandmother at Hilborough, he was invited by another boy to go bird's-nesting: as he did not return at the usual dinner-hour, the old lady became alarmed, and dispatched messengers in different ways to search after him. The little ramblers at length were discovered under a hedge, counting over the spoils of the day, and the young Horatio was brought home. His relation began to scold him for being absent from home without leave, and concluded with saying, "I wonder *fear* did not drive you home." Horatio innocently replied, "Madam, I never saw *fear!*"

The following anecdote, recording a circumstance which occurred during his voyage with Captain Lutwidge, may serve as a proof of the cool intrepidity which our young mariner possessed:—In these high northern latitudes, the nights are generally clear: during one of them, notwithstanding the extreme bitterness of the cold, young Nelson was missing: every search that was instantly made in quest of him was in vain, and it was at length imagined he was lost: when lo! as the rays of the rising sun opened the distant horizon, to the great astonishment of his messmates, he was discerned at a considerable distance on the ice, armed with a single musket, in anxious pursuit of an immense bear. The lock of the musket being injured, the piece would not go off, and he had therefore pursued the animal in hopes of tiring him, and being at length able to effect his purpose with the but end. On his return, Captain Lutwidge reprimanded him for

leaving

leaving the ship without leave; and in a severe tone demanded what motive could possibly induce him to undertake so rash an action? The young hero, with great simplicity replied, "I wished, sir, to get the skin for my father."*

On his return, Mr. Nelson obtained a birth in the Sea Horse, of 20 guns, in which he sailed with a squadron for the East Indies. In this vessel he visited almost every part of the East Indies, from Bengal to Bussora. In consequence, however, of ill-health, he returned to England in the Dolphin, in 1776; when, though under nineteen years of age, he was appointed acting lieutenant of the Worcester, of 64 guns. In this ship he remained till the month of April 1777, when, having passed his examination for the rank of lieutenant, he received his commission, as second of the Lowestoffe, of 32 guns. The Lowestoffe sailed to Jamaica, where Mr. Nelson was very actively employed in the command of a schooner, which served as a tender to that frigate. During the time, however, that he was on board the Lowestoffe, the following incident took place:—In a strong gale of wind and a heavy sea, the Lowestoffe captured an American letter of marque. The captain ordered his first lieutenant to board her, but he was unable to effect it from the tremendous burst of sea. On his return to the ship, Captain Locker exclaimed, "Have I no officer who can board this prize?" On hearing this, the master immediately ran

* For this anecdote, as well as for many of the leading facts which are contained in this sketch, we are indebted to that highly respectable publication, the *Naval Chronicle*; a source which we know to be authentic.

to the gangway, when Lieutenant Nelson suddenly interposed, saying, "It is my turn now; if I come back it will be your's."

Soon after Sir Peter Parker's arrival at Jamaica, in 1778, he appointed Mr. Nelson, third lieutenant of his flag-ship, the Bristol; from which, by rotation, he became the first. In the course of the year, he was appointed commander of the Badger brig, for the purpose of protecting the Musquito shore, and the Bay of Honduras, from the depredations of American privateers. So grateful were the settlers for his assiduous and intrepid exertions, that they presented him with an unanimous vote of thanks for his services.

Captain Nelson obtained his post rank in June, 1779, and was appointed to the command of the Hinchinbroke. On the arrival of Count d'Estaing at Hispaniola, an immediate attack upon Jamaica being expected, Captain Nelson was entrusted with the command of the batteries at Port Royal, the most important post on the station.

In January 1780, he was associated with Major Polson in an expedition against Fort Juan, in the Gulph of Mexico. He superintended the transporting of the troops, in boats, one hundred miles up a river, which, since the time of the Buccaneers, none but the Spaniards had ever ventured to navigate. The fortress was reduced, principally by the valour of Nelson; but the fatigues of the service, together with the climate, materially impaired his health, and he was compelled to return to England.

In August, 1781, as a reward for his exertions, he was appointed to the Albemarle; but, though his situation was improved, his health received another severe

vere check by being kept the whole of the ensuing winter in the North Seas.

He was now actively employed till the peace of 1783, when, with others, he was reduced to half-pay. In the autumn of that year he went over to France, where he remained till the spring of 1784; when, his services being required by his country, notwithstanding the war was at an end, he was recalled, and appointed to the Boreas frigate, in which he was ordered to the Leeward Islands. On this station, he was embroiled in differences of a nature rather civil than military; for, some disputes arising with respect to the right of the Americans to trade, he found himself under the necessity of seizing several American vessels, which, in his opinion, had infringed the privileges of Britain, in trading from America to our West-India islands.—As this seizure was in direct opposition to the sentiments of the governors and custom-house officers, it drew upon him great odium, and, had he ventured to leave his ship, his personal safety would have been endangered. When the business, however, came to be investigated by the English government, Captain Nelson's conduct met with the warmest approbation.

In June, 1787, our officer returned to England; having previously married the amiable widow of Dr. Nesbit, of the island of Nevis.

The Boreas frigate was paid off at the close of the year, and the three succeeding years were passed by Captain Nelson in retirement and domestic tranquillity. This short interval was the only one that he had ever been able or desirous to snatch from the calls of his country.

In 1790, he solicited employment, but his endea-

vours to obtain it were ineffectual. In 1793, however, on the 30th of January, he was appointed to the Agamemnon, of 64 guns, and placed under the command of Lord Hood, in the Mediterranean. In all circumstances of danger, it was his lot to be put forward; if batteries were to be attacked, troops to be landed, or ships to be cut out of an enemy's port—if any thing were proposed of more than common enterprise and skill, Captain Nelson was the man upon whom all eyes were fixed. At Toulon, at Bastia, and at Calvi, Lord Hood bore ample testimony to his services. At Bastia he superintended the landing of troops, and gave repeated proofs of personal intrepidity; at Calvi his exertions were not less. It was at the siege of the latter that he lost the sight of his right eye, by a shot from the enemy's fort striking the upper part of the battery which he commanded, and driving some particles of sand with prodigious force against his face.

Our officer was now in constant employment. On the 13th and 14th of March, and also on the 13th of July, 1795, he distinguished himself in the actions with the French fleet.

At this period, Sir John Jervis was appointed to command in the Mediterranean; and, so much did he approve of Captain Nelson's conduct, that he removed him from the Agamemnon to the Captain, of 74 guns, on board of which he directed him to hoist a distinguishing pendant. From April to October, he was constantly employed in the most difficult service:—in the blockade of Leghorn, the taking of Port Ferrajo, and the evacuation of Bastia.

In December, 1796, having hoisted his broad pendant, as commodore, in the Minerve frigate, he was dis-

dispatched to Porto Ferrajo, accompanied by the Blanche, for naval stores. In the passage thither, in the night of the 19th of December, the commodore fell in with two Spanish frigates: he immediately attacked the ship which carried the poop-light, and directed the Blanche to bear down to engage the other: at forty minutes past ten at night, Commodore Nelson brought his ship to close action, which continued, without intermission, until half past one, when La Sabina, of 40 guns, 28 eighteen-pounders on her main-deck, and 286 men, commanded by Captain Don Jacobo Stuart, struck to La Minerve. Captain Preston, in the Blanche, silenced the ship which he had engaged, but could not effect possession, owing to three more ships heaving in sight.

Our brave commander, with his accustomed generosity, gave the whole credit of the action to Captain Cockburne* and his officers

On the 11th of February, 1797, as Commodore Nelson was proceeding in the Minerve to the rendezvous of the grand fleet, he was chased by two line of battle ships, and fell in with the whole Spanish fleet off the mouth of the Straits. He effected his escape, and joined the admiral off Cape St. Vincent, on the 13th of February. He had scarcely shifted his pendant to his own ship, the Captain, when the signal was thrown out for the whole British fleet to prepare for action.—Every circumstance of this celebrated victory has been recorded, and the services of Lord Nelson on that memorable day have been duly appreciated; but, as the gazette letters convey a very imperfect idea of the

* Captain of the Minerve.

 share

share which he took in the action, we shall subjoin the following sketch, extracted from the minutes of an officer employed in one of the repeating frigates.

" The Spanish admiral's flag was hoisted upon the Santissima Trinidada, of 136 guns; a ship of four decks, reported to be the largest in the world.* Notwithstanding the inequality of force, Commodore Nelson, commanding a 74-gun ship only, instantly engaged this colossal opponent; and for a considerable time had to contend not only with her, but with her seconds ahead and astern, each of three decks. While he maintained this unequal combat, which was viewed with admiration, mixed with anxiety, his friends were flying to his support: the enemy's attention was soon directed to the Culloden, Captain Troubridge, and in a short time after to the Blenheim, of 90 guns, Captain Frederick, who opportunely came to his assistance.

" The intrepid conduct of the commodore staggered the Spanish admiral, who already appeared to waver in pursuing his intention of joining the ships cut off by the British fleet; when the Culloden's timely arrival, and Captain Troubridge's spirited support of the commodore, together with the approach of the Blenheim, followed by Rear-admiral Parker, with the Prince George, Orion, Irresistible, and Diadem, not far distant, determined the Spanish admiral to change his design altogether, and to throw out the signal for the ships of his main body to haul their wind, and make sail on the larboard tack.

* The same ship with which Lord Nelson so nobly contended, in the glorious battle off Trafalgar, where he bravely sealed the victory with his life, on the 21st of October, 1805.

" Not

"Not a moment was lost in improving the advantage now apparent in favour of the British squadron: as the ships of Rear-admiral Parker's division approached the enemy's ships, in support of the Captain, (Commodore Nelson's ship) and her gallant seconds, the Blenheim and Culloden, the cannonade became more animated and impressive. In this manner did Commodore Nelson engage a Spanish three-decker, until he had nearly expended all the ammunition in his ship; which had suffered the loss of her fore-top-mast, and received such considerable damage in her sails and rigging, that she was almost rendered *hors du combat*. At this critical period, the Spanish three-decker having lost her mizen-mast, fell on board a Spanish two-decker, of 84 guns, that was her second: this latter ship consequently now became the commodore's opponent, and a most vigorous fire was kept up for some time by both ships within pistol-shot.

"It was now that the commodore's ship lost many men, and that the damages already sustained, through the long and arduous conflict which she had maintained, appearing to render a continuance of the contest in the usual way precarious, or perhaps impossible. At this critical moment, the commodore, from a sudden impulse, instantly resolved on a bold and decisive measure; and determined, whatever might be the event, to attempt his opponent sword in hand: the boarders were summoned, and orders given to lay his ship on board the enemy.

"Fortune favours the brave! nor on this occasion was she unmindful of her favourite. Ralph Willett Miller, the commodore's captain, so judiciously directed the course of this ship, that he laid her aboard the

starboard quarter of the Spanish eighty-four: her spritsail-yard passing over the enemy's poop, and hooking in her mizen shrouds: when the word to board being given, the officers and seamen destined for this perilous duty, headed by Lieutenant Berry, together with the detachment of the 69th regiment, commanded by Lieutenant Pearson, then doing duty as marines on board the Captain, passed with rapidity on board the enemy's ship, and in a short time the San Nicholas was in the possession of her intrepid assailants. The commodore's ardour would not permit him to remain an inactive spectator of this scene. He was aware the attempt was hazardous, and he thought his presence might animate his brave companions, and contribute to the success of this bold enterprize: he therefore, as if by magic impulse, accompanied the party in this attack, passing from the fore-chains of his own ship, into the enemy's quarter-gallery, and thence through the cabin to the quarter-deck, where he arrived in time to receive the sword of the dying commander, who had been mortally wounded by the boarders.

"He had not been long employed in taking the necessary measures to secure this hard-earned conquest, when he found himself engaged in a more arduous task. The stern of the three-decker, his former opponent, was placed directly amid-ships of the weather-beam of the prize, San Nicholas; and, from her poop and galleries, the enemy sorely annoyed with musquetry the British, who had boarded the San Nicholas. The commodore was not long in resolving on the conduct to be adopted on this momentous occasion; the two alternatives that presented themselves to his unshaken mind, were to quit the prize, or instantly board the

the three-decker. Confident in the bravery of his seamen, he determined on the latter. Directing therefore an additional number of men to be sent from the Captain on board the San Nicholas, the undaunted Commodore, whom no danger ever appalled, headed himself the assailants in this new attack; exclaiming, WESTMINSTER ABBEY, OR GLORIOUS VICTORY!

Success in a few minutes, and with little loss crowned the enterprize. Such indeed was the panic occasioned by his preceding conduct, that the British no sooner appeared on the quarter-deck of their new opponent, than the commandant advanced; and asking for the British commanding officer, dropped on one knee, and presented his sword; apologizing at the same time, for the Spanish admiral's not appearing, as he was dangerously wounded. For a moment Commodore NELSON could scarcely persuade himself of this second instance of good fortune; he therefore ordered the Spanish commandant, who had the rank of a brigadier, to assemble the officers on the quarter-deck, and direct means to be taken instantly for communicating to the crew the surrender of the ship. All the officers immediately appeared, and the commander had the surrender of the San Josef duly confirmed, by each of them delivering his sword."

For his distinguished gallantry on this occasion, Commodore Nelson was honored with the insignia of the Bath, and the gold medal, from his sovereign; and was also presented with the freedom of the City of London in a gold box.

In the month of April following, Sir Horatio hoisted his flag as Rear-admiral of the Blue Squadron, and was detached to bring down the garrison of Porto Ferrajo. He

He afterwards shifted his flag to the Theseus, and was appointed to command the inner squadron at the blockade of Cadiz; whither the enemy's fleet, after their defeat off Cape St. Vincent had withdrawn.—On the night of the 3d of July, an attempt having been made to bombard the city of Cadiz, the Spaniards armed and manned with their bravest seamen and soldiers, a number of large boats and launches and sallied out of the harbor upon the English. The commanding officer of the Spaniards, Don Miguel Tyrason, boarded the barge of Sir Horatio, which had only its usual complement of ten men and the coxswain, accompanied by Captain Freemantle. The Spanish commander was rowed by twenty-six oars, and had thirty men on board. The conflict was obstinate and both parties behaved with great valor; but the Spaniard did not yield until eighteen of his men were killed, and himself and all the others wounded. After a long and desperate defence, the Spaniards, were at length driven back into the harbor. Sir John Jervis, in his official letter on this occasion observes,——"Rear-admiral Nelson's actions speak for themselves; any praise of mine would fall very short of his merit."

Two nights subsequently to the first attempt, Sir Horatio conducted a second bombardment, which produced a considerable effect in the town, and among the shipping.

In the memorably-disastrous attack upon the town of Santa Cruz, in the island of Teneriffe, on the night of the 15th of July, (1797) our brave officer, who was entrusted with the hazardous, and, as it proved, impracticable expedition, was deprived of his right-arm, by a cannon-shot. A strong detachment of seamen and

and marines was landed, and the English were in full possession of the town for about seven hours; but, finding it impossible to storm the citadel, they were under the necessity of retreating, with the loss of two hundred and forty-six gallant officers and men, killed, wounded, and drowned. It was soon after the landing of the detachment, that the Admiral received his wound; his brave followers at the same time pushing forward with all the accustomed ardor of British seamen. The shock caused him to fall to the ground, where for some minutes he was left to himself. Providence, however, had ordained that his life should be preserved for the future service of his country. His son-in-law, Mr. Nesbit, missing him, had the presence of mind to return; when, after some search in the dark, he found his brave relative weltering in his blood on the ground, with his arm shattered and himself apparently lifeless. Mr. Nesbit immediately applied his cravat, as a tourniquet, to Sir Horatio's arm, and, with the filial piety of Æneas, carried him on his back to the beach; whence, with the assistance of some sailors, he conveyed him into one of the boats, and put off to the Theseus, under a tremendous, though ill-directed fire from the enemy's battery. There is a remarkable circumstance connected with this incident. In an earlier part of his life, Sir Horatio received a sword from his maternal uncle, Captain Suckling, which had been many years in the family. With the sword, the youthful hero received the strong injunction, never to part with it but with his life. The brave Horatio was not likely to violate such a charge. He constantly wore his uncle's valued present: and, with this sword in his hand, he led the attack against Santa

Santa Cruz. With his arm, the sword necessarily fell. Stunned by the shock, he was for some moments deprived of sensation; but, slightly recovering, he remembered the injunction, groped for, and fortunately recovered the sword with his *left* hand, and again relapsed into a state of insensibility. In this state was he discovered by Mr. Nesbit, firmly grasping the sword. This incident alone, could no other be adduced, would be sufficient to prove Lord Nelson's mind of a superior cast.

The same night, at ten o'clock, Sir Horatio's arm was amputated on board the Theseus: he immediately after began his official letter, and finished it by eleven.

Unfortunately, the operation being performed in the night, some mistake was made in taking up the arteries, which afterwards occasioned the admiral to suffer the most excruciating pains. He was obliged to come to England for advice: and it was the 13th of December, before the surgeons who attended him could pronounce him fit for service.

On his first appearance at court, after this unfortunate accident, his sovereign received him in the most gracious manner, and expressed his regret that his state of health and mutilated person would doubtless deprive the nation of his future services. With a dignified emphasis, Sir Horatio replied, "May it please your Majesty, I can never think *that* a loss, which the performance of my duty has occasioned; and, as long as I have a foot to stand on, I will combat for my king and country."

Soon after this, our gallant officer, received a pension of 1000l. *per annum*, as a small recompence for having

having spent a considerable part of his life in danger, hardships, enterprise, and indefatigable service.

Previously to the issuing of such a grant, positive custom requires, that the object of his Majesty's bounty should distinctly state the services on which he founds his claim. The memorial which Sir Horatio presented on the occasion, is of itself so curious a document, and exhibits so brilliant a display of the hero's services, that we should deem ourselves culpable in withholding it. We therefore transcribe it as follows:—

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

"*The Memorial of Sir Horatio Nelson, K. B. and a Rear-Admiral in your Majesty's Fleet;*

"SHEWETH,

"THAT during the present war, your memorialist has been in four actions with the fleets of the enemy, *viz.* on the 13th and 14th of March, 1795; on the 13th of July, 1795; and on the 14th of February, 1797: in three actions with frigates; in six engagements against batteries; in ten actions in boats employed in cutting out of harbours, in destroying vessels, and in taking three towns. Your memorialist has also served on shore with the army four months, and commanded the batteries at the sieges of Bastia and Calvi. That during the war he has assisted at the capture of seven sail of the line, six frigates, four corvettes, and eleven privateers of different sizes; and taken and destroyed near fifty sail of merchant vessels; and your memorialist has actually been engaged against the enemy upwards of *one hundred and twenty times.*—In which

which service your memorialist has lost his right eye and arm, and been severely wounded and bruised in his body. All of which services and wounds your memorialist most humbly submits to your Majesty's most gracious consideration.

"HORATIO NELSON.

"*October*, 1797."

In the month of December, Sir Horatio hoisted his flag on board the Vanguard; and on the 29th of April, 1798, having previously been employed in convoying a Lisbon fleet, he joined Earl St. Vincent off Cadiz. On the day following, he was detached by Earl St. Vincent into the Mediterranean, with the Vanguard, his flag-ship, of 74 guns, the Orion, and Alexander, of 74 guns each, the Emerald and Terpsichore frigates, and La Bonne Citoyenne sloop of war. Nothing material occurred until the 22d of May, when, being in the Gulph of Lyons, at two o'clock in the morning, a violent squall of wind took the Vanguard, and carried away her topmasts and her foremast. The three line-of-battle ships lost sight of the frigates on the same day; and at the moment of the misfortune which befel the Vanguard, the British squadron was not many leagues distant from the French fleet, under Buonaparte, which had on that very day sailed from Toulon. The squadron bore up for Sardinia, the Alexander taking the Vanguard in tow. On the 24th, with great difficulty, they reached the anchorage in St. Pierre's Road, where they were in hopes of meeting with that friendly reception which their distresses seemed to demand from a neutral power. But the governor of St. Pierre had received positive orders from

from the French not to afford protection or assistance to any English shipping. Though forbidden to give them a public reception, he, however, rendered them privately all the service that lay in his power.

We have mentioned this circumstance, chiefly for the purpose of introducing the following extract of a letter from Admiral Nelson to his lady; as it exhibits one of the many instances which might be adduced, of the genuine piety of his mind.

"Vanguard, St. Peter's Island, off Sardinia,
May 24, 1798.

"MY DEAREST FANNY,

"I OUGHT not to call what has happened to the Vanguard by the cold name of accident. I believe firmly it was the Almighty goodness, to check my consummate vanity; I hope it has made me a better officer, as I feel it has made me a better man. I kiss with all humility the rod. Figure to yourself, on Sunday evening, at sun-set, a vain man walking in his cabin, with a squadron around him, who looked up to their chief to lead them to glory, and in whom their chief placed the firmest reliance, that the proudest ships, of equal numbers, belonging to France, would have lowered their flags, and with a very rich prize lying by him. Figure to yourself, on Monday morning, when the sun rose, this proud, conceited man, his ship dismasted, his fleet dispersed, and himself in such distress, that the meanest frigate out of France would have been an unwelcome guest. But it has pleased Almighty God to bring us into a safe port, where, although we are refused the rights of humanity, yet the Vanguard will, in two days, get to sea again as an English man of war."

Having refitted in St. Pierre's Road, the English squadron proceeded for the place of rendezvous, which they reached on the 4th of June, and were joined on the 8th by ten sail of the line, under Captain Trowbridge.

With this force, which he deemed sufficient to encounter any fleet of the enemy, Admiral Nelson proposed to steer after them immediately, and knowing that they had sailed with the wind at N. W. he was induced to think that they were destined up the Mediterranean. Neither on the coast of Italy, nor in the port of Naples, could any intelligence be obtained of the ultimate intentions of the French; all that was learned amounted to a mere supposition that they had proceeded towards Malta. To facilitate the passage thither, it was determined to pass through the Straits of Messina, and this was accomplished on the 20th, with a fair wind; and two days after intelligence was received that the French had captured Malta, and sailed thence on the 18th, with a fresh breeze at N.W.

On this Sir Horatio took an opposite direction, and was not a little mortified, on discovering at Alexandria, that not a single French ship was anchored there. In this state of uncertainty, he instantly returned to Sicily, entered the port of Syracuse, took in a supply of fresh water, steered on the 25th of July for the Morea, and, in consequence of new and more correct information, determined once more to visit Alexandria, which he descried on the 1st of August, at noon. The enemy's fleet was first discovered by Captain Hood, in the Zealous, who immediately communicated by signal that it consisted of the following ships, &c. lying at anchor in a line of battle, in Aboukir Bay:—

1. Le Guerrier, 74 guns, 700 men; 2. Le Conquerant, 74 guns, 700 men; 3. Le Spartiate, 74 guns, 700 men; 4. L'Aquilon, 74 guns, 700 men; 5. Le Souverain Peuple, 74 guns, 700 men; 6. Le Franklin, Rear-Admiral Blanquet, 80 guns, 800 men; 7. L'Orient,

L'Orient, Admiral Bruix, commander-in-chief, Captain Casa Biauca, 120 guns, 1010 men; 8. Le Tonant, 80 guns, 800 men; 9. L'Heureux, 74 guns, 700 men; 10. Le Timoleon, 74 guns, 700 men; 11. Le Mercure, 74 guns, 700 men; 12. Le Guilliaume Tell, Rear-Admiral Villeneuve, 80 guns, 800 men; 13. Le Genereux, 74 guns, 700 men.

FRIGATES.

1. Le Diane, 48 guns, 300 men; 2. Le Justice, 44 guns, 300 men; 3. L'Artemise, 36 guns. 250 men; 4. Le Serieuse, 36 guns, 250 men.

This formidable fleet appeared to be moored in a compact line of battle, supported by a battery of guns and mortars on an island in their van, while their flanks were strengthened by gun-boats.

Although the wind blew fresh, and the day was far spent, yet the admiral made the signal for battle, and signified at the same time that it was his intention to attack the enemy's van and centre as it lay at anchor, according to the plan already communicated by him to the respective captains.

The British fleet, every ship of which sounded its way as it proceeded, stood in; and Sir Horatio being struck with the idea, that where there was room for one ship to swing, there was room for another to anchor, measures were taken for carrying this idea into effect, notwithstanding the Culloden had grounded on Bequier Island. The Goliath and Zealous, together with the Orion, the Audacious, and the Theseus, led inside, and received a most tremendous fire from the van of the fleet, as well as from the batteries on shore, while the Vanguard anchored on the outside of the enemy, within half pistol shot of Le Spartiate.

The Minotaur, Defence, Bellerophon, Majestic, Swiftsure, and Alexander, came up in succession; and Captain Thompson, of the Leander, making up in seamanship for the deficiency of a fifty-gun ship in point of metal, dropped her anchor athwart hawse of Le Franklin, an eighty-gun ship, in such a masterly manner, as to annoy both her and L'Orient.

Notwithstanding the darkness that soon ensued, Le Guerrier was dismasted in the course of a few minutes, while the twilight yet remained; Le Conquerant and Le Spartiate were also soon reduced to a similar state; L'Aquilon, Le Souverain Peuple, and Le Spartiate, surrendered; soon after which the Admiral's ship, L'Orient, was discovered to be on fire, and the flames burst forth with such rapidity, that great apprehensions were entertained not only for her safety, but also that of such ships of the British fleet as were in her immediate vicinity. The only boat in a condition to swim was immediately dispatched from the English admiral's ship, and the commanders of others following the example, about seventy lives were saved; and many more would have been rescued from death, had not L'Orient blown up suddenly, with a most tremendous explosion.

With the interval of this awful moment only excepted, the firing continued; and the victory having been now secured in the van, such ships as were not disabled bore down upon those of the enemy that had not been in the engagement.

When the dawn developed the scene of this terrible conflict, only two sail of the line (Le Guilleaume Tell and Le Genereux) were discovered with their colours flying, all the rest having struck their ensigns. These,

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conscious of their danger, together with two frigates, cut their cables in the course of the morning, and stood out to sea. The whole of the 2d and 3d of August was employed in securing the French ships that had struck.

In the heat of the action Sir Horatio received a severe wound, which was supposed to have proceeded from langridge shot, or from a piece of iron: the skin of his forehead was cut with it at right angles, and hung down over his face. Captain Berry happening to stand near, caught the admiral in his arms; and the general idea at first was, that he was shot through the head. On being carried into the cock-pit, where several of his gallant crew were lying with their shattered limbs, the surgeon, with great anxiety, came to attend on the admiral, "*No,*" replied the hero, "*I will take my turn with my brave followers!*" The agony of his wound increasing, he became convinced that the presentiment, which he had long indulged, of dying in battle, was now about to be accomplished. He was, however, so deeply impressed with a sense of the service which had been rendered to him by Captain Louis, in the commencement of the action, that he sent for that officer; observing, that he could not have a moment's peace, until he had thanked him for his conduct: adding, *this is the hundred and twenty-fourth time I have been engaged, but I believe it is now nearly over with me.** The subsequent meeting which took place

* When the Vanguard, Sir Horatio's flag-ship, anchored alongside the Spartiate, she became exposed to the raking fire of L'Aquilon, the next ship in the enemy's line; by which the Vanguard had between fifty and sixty men disabled in the space of ten.

place between the admiral and Captain Louis, was affecting in the extreme. The latter hung over his bleeding friend in silent sorrow.—"Farewel, dear Louis," said the admiral, "I shall never forget the obligations I am under to you, for your brave and generous conduct; and now, whatever may become of me, my mind is at peace."

The admiral then immediately sent for his chaplain, whom he requested to be the bearer of his remembrances to Lady Nelson; and, having signed a commission, appointing his friend, the brave Hardy,* commander of the Mutine brig, to the rank of post-captain in the Vanguard, he resigned himself to death with truly christian composure.

But the hour of his departure was not yet come. When the surgeon came to examine the wound, he soon discovered that it was not mortal. This joyful ntelligence quickly circulated through the ship. As soon as the painful operation of dressing was over, Admiral Nelson returned to the quarter-deck, where he arrived just time enough to behold the conflagration of L'Orient.

On the following morning, he issued a memorandum to the respective captains of the squadron, expressing his intentions of publicly returning thanks to Almighty God for having blessed his Majesty's arms with victory. These pious intentions were carried into effect

ten minutes. Owing, however, to the gallant and judicious manner in which Captain Louis took his station a-head of the Vanguard, his ship (the Minotaur) not only effectually relieved her from this distressing situation, but overpowered her opponent.

* Lord Nelson's captain in the Victory, at the action of Trafalgar.

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on board the Vanguard, at two o'clock the same afternoon; the other ships following the example of the admiral, though perhaps not all at precisely the same time. This solemn act of gratitude to Heaven seemed to make a very deep impression upon several of the prisoners, both officers and men, some of the former remarking, "that it was no wonder that we could preserve such order and discipline, when we could impress the minds of our men with such sentiments after a victory so great, and at a moment of such seeming confusion."

Subsequently to this, the admiral issued another memorandum to all the ships, expressive of his sentiments of the noble exertions of the different officers and men of his squadron, desiring them to accept his most sincere and cordial thanks for their very gallant behaviour, and assuring them that he should represent their truly meritorious conduct in the strongest terms to the commander-in-chief. It is scarcely necessary to add, that he kept his word to its fullest extent.

The loss of the English, in killed and wounded, on this occasion, amounted to 895. That of the French is not known; but it must have been great beyond all proportion. For the space of a whole week, the Bay of Aboukir was covered with the floating bodies of the slain, exhibiting a most painful and horrid spectacle; and, though men were continually employed to sink them, many of the bodies, having slipped off the shot, again appeared on the surface.

After this glorious victory obtained over the French fleet, the captains of the British squadron seemed eager to outvie each other in sending various presents

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to the admiral, that had been made from the wreck of L'Orient. Captain Hallowell, of the Swiftsure, who had ever been on terms of the most intimate friendship with Sir Horatio Nelson, actually ordered his carpenter to make a coffin, solely from the wreck, both as to wood and iron. His orders were punctually obeyed; and one having been finished with considerable neatness from the materials of L'Orient's main-mast, it was presented to the admiral, with the following polite and affectionate letter:—

"Swiftsure, August, 1798.

"SIR,

"I have taken the liberty of presenting you a coffin, made from the main-mast of L'Orient, that when you have finished your military career in this world, you may be buried in one of your trophies; but that *that* period may be far distant, is the earnest wish of your sincere friend, "B. HALLOWELL.

"Sir Horatio Nelson, Rear-Admiral of the Blue," &c. &c.

The admiral highly appreciated the present of this brave officer; and for some months had it placed upright in his cabin. At length, by the tears and intreaties of an old servant, he was prevailed on to allow its being carried below. When Lord Nelson shifted his flag into the Foudroyant, it was carefully removed with him into that ship.

It was on the 2d of October, that the Hon. Captain Capel, of La Mutine, arrived in England with the official accounts of the victory; and, on the 6th of the same month, his Majesty created Sir Horatio Nelson a peer of Great Britain, by the title of Baron Nelson of

of the Nile, and of Burnham Thorpe, in the county of Norfolk. The thanks of both houses of parliament were voted to the gallant admiral, the captains, officers, seamen, and marines of the fleet, for their resolute and intrepid conduct; and a pension of 2000l. *per annum* was voted to Lord Nelson, for his own life and that of his two next heirs. The Irish parliament voted him a pension of 1000l. *per annum*; the East India Company presented him with 10,000l.; and the city of London presented him with a sword, valued at 200 guineas. The captains of his own squadron also ordered an elegant sword to be made, and presented to his lordship, the hilt of which represented a crocodile, with the names of the ships and their commanders engraven on it.

The sword of the French Admiral M. Blanquet, which was surrendered to Sir Horatio Nelson, was entrusted to the Hon. Captain Capel, to present to the city of London, with an appropriate letter from our gallant commander; and was afterwards placed in the common-council chamber, with an inscription beneath it, relating the circumstances of the honourable present.

On the 20th of November, his Majesty was graciously pleased to grant to Lord Nelson his royal licence and authority, that he and his issue might bear the following honourable augmentations to his armorial ensigns: *viz.* A chief undulated argent, thereon waves of the sea, from which a palm tree issuant, between a disabled ship in the dexter and a ruinous battery on the sinister, all proper; and for his crest, on a naval crown, or, the chelengk, or plume of triumph, presented to him by the Grand Seignior, as a mark of his

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high esteem, and of the sense of the gallant conduct of the said Horatio Baron Nelson, in the said glorious and decisive victory (of the Nile), with the motto, "*Palmam qui meruit ferat*," and to his supporters, being a sailor in the dexter, and a lion in the sinister, the honourable augmentations following: *viz.* In the hand of the sailor a palm branch, and another in the paw of the lion, both proper, with the addition of a tri-coloured flag and staff in the mouth of the latter; which augmentations to the supporters to be borne by the said Horatio Baron Nelson, and to those to whom the said dignity shall descend in virtue of his Majesty's letters patent of creation.

After the victory of Aboukir, leaving Captain Samuel Hood to block up the port of Alexandria, Admiral Nelson sailed for Naples, where he arrived, in the Vanguard, on the 22d of September. On his landing, he was received amidst the reiterated shouts of a rejoicing people, who looked up to him as their deliverer and protector. The general sentiment which prevailed throughout Naples at that time cannot be better described, than in the following passage, contained in a letter from the Queen of Naples to the Marquis De Circello, the Neapolitan ambassador at London:—

"I write to you with joy inexpressible! The brave and enterprizing British Admiral, Lord Nelson, has obtained a most signal and decisive victory. My heart would fain give wings to the courier who is the bearer of these propitious tidings, to facilitate the earliest acknowledgments of our gratitude. So extensive is this victory in all its relative circumstances, that were it not that the world has been accustomed to see prodigies

gies of glory achieved by the English on the seas, I should almost question the reality of the event. It has produced among us a general spirit of enthusiasm. It would have moved you much, to see my infant boys and girls hanging round my neck in tears, expressing their joy at the happy tidings, made doubly dear to us by the critical period at which they arrived. This news of the defeat of Buonaparte's Egyptian fleet has made many disaffected persons less daring, and improved the prospect of the greatest good. Make my highest respects acceptable to their Majesties of England. Recommend the gallant hero, Nelson, to his royal master. He has raised in the Italians an enthusiastic reverence for the English nation. Great expectations were naturally founded on his enterprizing talents, but no one could look for so total an overthrow of the enemy. All here are frantic with excess of joy."

Lord Nelson remained at Naples till the month of December, on the 12th of which the blockade of Malta commenced. On the 21st of the same month, the king of Naples and his family embarked in the Vanguard, and were carried to Palermo, in Sicily, where Admiral Nelson had the honour of assisting in his Neapolitan Majesty's councils. In March, he arranged a plan for taking the islands in the Bay of Naples, and for supporting the royalists, who were making head in the kingdom. This plan succeeded in all its parts. In May, on being promoted to the rank of rear-admiral of the red, he shifted his flag into the Foudroyant; at which time he was obliged to be constantly on his guard against the French fleet. At length the French evacuated

evacuated Naples; and having materially contributed, by his extraordinary exertions, to replace his Sicilian Majesty on his throne, Lord Nelson was, on the 13th of September, 1799, presented by that monarch with the dukedom of Bronti, estimated at the annual value of 5000l. His lordship, it is said, directed that 2000l. *per annum* should be devoted to the use of the peasants on the estate, whose dress and comforts arising from this liberal donation placed them much above all others in the country. One thousand were assigned for repairs and improvements on the estate, and the remaining 2000l. have been regularly transmitted to his lordship.

With the dukedom of Bronti, his Sicilian Majesty also presented Lord Nelson with a sword, most magnificently enriched with diamonds, said to be worth 60,000 ducats. It, however, derived additional value from the following circumstance.—Charles the Third, on his departure for Spain, had presented this sword to the king of Naples, observing, as he gave it—"With this sword I conquered the kingdom which I now resign to you: it ought, in future, to be possessed by the first defender of the same, or by him who restored it to you, in case it should ever be lost." Lord Nelson must have felt the full force of the compliment conveyed by such a present.

In addition to this sword, and the dukedom of Bronti, the following presents were made to Lord Nelson, for his services in the Mediterranean, between the 1st of October 1798, and the 1st of October 1799:—

From his king and country, a peerage of Great Britain, and the gold medal

From

From the parliament of Great Britain, for his own life, and two next heirs, per annum	£ 2,000
From the parliament of Ireland, not exactly known, but supposed to be the same as given to Earl St. Vincent, and Lord Duncan, per annum	1,000
From the East India Company	10,000
From the Turkey Company, a piece of plate of great value	
From Alexander Davidson, Esq. a gold medal	
From the city of London, a sword of great value	
————————, to the captains who served under his orders in the battle of the Nile, a sword	
From the Grand Seignior, a diamond Aigrette, or plume of triumph, valued at	2,000
From the same, a rich pelice, valued at	1,000
From the Grand Seignior's mother, a rose, set with diamonds, valued at	1,000
From the Emperor of Russia, a box set with diamonds, and a most elegant letter, value	2,500
From the King of Sardinia, a box set with diamonds, and a most elegant letter	1,200
From the Island of Zante, a gold-headed sword and cane, as an acknowledgment, that had it not been for the battle of the Nile, they could not have been liberated from French cruelty.	
From the city of Palermo, a gold box and chain brought on a silver waiter. Also the freedom of the city of Palermo, constituting him a Grandee of Spain.	

After a variety of other services, in which his lordship acquitted himself with his usual ability and success, he embarked with the late Sir William Hamilton, the English minister to the court of Naples, and landed at Yarmouth on the 6th of November, 1800, after an absence of three years, which had been wholly occupied by a series of the most brilliant and magnanimous achievements.

The arrival of the hero of the Nile was not regarded with apathy by the British populace. They greeted him

him with enthusiastic acclamations; and, harnessing themselves to his carriage, they dragged him to the inn. On his arrival in London, similar honours awaited him.

Shortly after his return, in consequence of his own pressing solicitations, he was again enabled to hoist his flag in the service of his country. The admiralty, with a due and appropriate regard to his glory, appointed him to the command of the San Josef, of 110 guns, a ship formerly boarded and taken by himself in the action off St. Vincent.

In the spring of 1801, a confederacy of the northern powers having alarmed the nation, Lord Nelson received a command in the expedition which was set on foot to dissolve it. A fleet, consisting of eighteen sail of the line and four frigates, with a number of gun-boats and bomb-vessels, amounting in all to fifty-four sail, having been fitted out for this purpose, proceeded from Yarmouth Roads for the Baltic, in the beginning of March. The command of the expedition was entrusted to Sir Hyde Parker, assisted by Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson, who hoisted his flag in the St. George, of 98 guns, and Rear-Admiral Totty—the last of whom lost his flag-ship on a sand-bank, off the coast of Lincolnshire. On the 19th of March, Sir Hyde Parker's ship made the Scaw, which was the first general rendezvous of the fleet. On the arrival of the English squadron in the Cattegat, Sir Hyde dispatched a letter to the governor of Cronenburg, in which, after alluding to the hostile conduct of Denmark, he demanded, *Whether he could pass that fortress freely, and without impediment?*—On being answered in the negative, he anchored near to the island of Huen, and, in company

pany with Lord Nelson and Admiral Graves, surveyed the formidable line of ships, praams, gallies, fire-vessels, and gun-boats, flanked and supported by extensive batteries on the two islands called the Crowns, the largest of which was mounted with from fifty to seventy pieces of cannon: these were also farther strengthened by two seventy-gun ships and a large frigate, in the inner road of Copenhagen; while two sixty-fours, without masts, were moored on the flat, towards the entrance of the arsenal.

It was a received opinion among the Danes that the possession of Cronenburg Castle gave them an uncontrolled command of the passage of the Sound; and, notwithstanding the formidable appearance of the British fleet, they considered themselves as in a state of perfect security. Their confidence is illustrated by the following incident:--During the negociations which took place previously to the battle which terminated so gloriously for England, an officer of distinction, high in favour with the Crown Prince, came on board the English admiral, with a verbal answer to one of our proposals; and, finding some difficulty in expressing, with sufficient clearness, the sentiments of his court, was requested to communicate them in writing. The pen which was brought for this purpose happening to be ill-pointed, he held it up, and, with a sarcastic smile, observed to those about him, *If your guns are not better pointed than your pens, you will make but little impression on Copenhagen!*

Lord Nelson, who, with his accustomed gallantry, had offered his services for conducting the attack, now shifted his flag from the St. George to the Elephant; and, notwithstanding the force of the enemy, he fear-

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lessly led the van, and passed the Sound, with the loss of only six or seven men killed and wounded on board the Isis, occasioned by the bursting of one of her lower deck guns. On the 2d of April his lordship weighed, for the purpose of engaging the Danish fleet, which consisted of six sail of the line, eleven floating batteries, a bomb-ketch, &c. The action commenced at ten o'clock in the morning; and, after a sharp and bloody conflict, seventeen sail were either sunk, burnt, or taken.

Various are the accounts which have been written of this brilliant victory, all of them eulogising, in the highest strain of panegyric, the conduct of our departed hero. In none of them, however, do we find more strict justice awarded to the contending parties, than in *Carr's Northern Summer*.

" From the position of the British ships," says the animated writer of that work, " before the squadron under Lord Nelson bore down, and rendered his intention indubitable, the Danes were firmly of opinion that the British commander intended to proceed either to Carlscrona or to Revel, and made no preparation for defence; their ships were lying in ordinary; they therefore trusted solely to their block-ships and batteries. On that day the hero of the Nile surpassed those achievements, which an admiring and astonished world conceived must for ever remain without imitation, as they had been without example, in the annals of the British navy. Favoured by a fortunate shift of wind, and an extraordinary elevation of the tide, which at the time was higher than the Danes had long remembered it, he placed his unsupported squadron, and,

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as it is said, with an *unobserved* signal* of retreat flying at the mast-head of the ship of the chief in command, in a most advantageous and formidable position. The citizens of Copenhagen in a moment flew to their posts; all distinctions were lost in the love of their country. Nobles and mechanics, gentlemen and shopmen, rushed together in crowds to the quays; the sick crawled out of their beds, and the very lame were led to the sea-side, imploring to be taken in the boats, which were perpetually going off in crowds to the block-ships. A carnage at once tremendous and novel served to increase their enthusiasm. What an awful moment! The invoked vengeance of the British nation, with the fury and velocity of lightning, was falling with terrible desolation upon a race of gallant people, in their very capital, whose kings were once seated upon the throne of England, and in the very veins of whose magnanimous prince flowed the blood of her august family. Nature must have shuddered as she con templated such a war of brethren; the conflict was short, but sanguinary beyond example. In the midst of the slaughter the heroic Nelson dispatched a flag of truce on shore, with a note to the Crown Prince, in which he expressed a wish that a stop should be put to the furt er effusion of human blood, and to avert the destruction of the Danish arsenal, and of the capital, which he observed, that the Danes must then see were at his mercy. He once more proposed their withdrawing from the triple league, and acknowledg

* It has been mentioned, that when Lord Nelson was informed of this circumstance by the signal officer, he replied: "You know I can see but with one eye, and that I must keep upon the enemy."—Ed.

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ing the supremacy of the British flag. As soon as the prince's answer was received, a cessation of hostilities took place, and Lord Nelson left his ship to go on shore. Upon his arrival at the quay he found a carriage which had been sent for him by Mr. D——, a merchant of high respectability, the confusion being too great to enable the prince to send one of the royal carriages; in the former the gallant admiral proceeded to the palace in the Octagon, through crowds of people, whose fury was rising to frenzy, and amongst whom his person was in more imminent danger than even from the cannon of the block-ships; but nothing could shake the soul of such a man. Arrived at the palace in the Octagon, he calmly descended from the carriage, amidst the murmurs and groans of the enraged concourse, which not even the presence of the Danish officers who accompanied him could restrain. The Crown Prince received him in the hall, and conducted him up stairs and presented him to the king, whose long shattered state of mind had left him but very little sensibility to display upon the trying occasion. The objects of this impressive interview were soon adjusted to the perfect satisfaction of Lord Nelson, and his applauding country. That done he assumed the gaiety and good-humour of a visitor, and partook of some refreshments with the Crown Prince.

"During the repast Lord Nelson spoke in raptures of the bravery of the Danes, and particularly requested the prince to introduce him to a very young officer, whom he described as having done wonders during the battle, by attacking his own ship immediately under the lower guns. It proved to be the gallant young Welmoes, a strippling of seventeen. The

British

British hero embraced him with the enthusiasm of a brother, and delicately intimated to the prince that he ought to make him an admiral; to which the prince very happily replied, "If, my lord, I were to make all my brave officers admirals, I should have no captains or lieutenants in my service." This heroic youth had volunteered the command of a praam, which is a sort of raft, carrying six small cannon, and manned with twenty-four men, who pushed off from shore, and in the fury of the battle placed themselves under the stern of Lord Nelson's ship, which they most successfully attacked in such a manner that although they were below the reach of his stern-chasers, the British marines made terrible slaughter amongst them: twenty of those gallant men fell by their bullets, but their young commander continued knee-deep in dead at his post, until the truce was announced. He has been honoured, as he most eminently deserved to be, with the grateful remembrance of his country and of his prince, who, as a mark of his regard, presented him with a medallion, commemorative of his gallantry, and has appointed him to the command of his yacht, in which he makes his annual visit to Holstein. The issue of this contest was glorious and decisive; could it be otherwise, when its destinies were committed to Nelson?"

The future conduct of the negociation having entirely devolved on Lord Nelson, he next addressed himself to the Swedish government, and obtained the embargo to be taken off all the English ships in the Baltic. These points having been gained, and the ill-state of his lordship's health demanding a temporary relaxation from the toils of service, he returned to England;

England; leaving instructions, however, with his successor, Vice-Admiral Pole, to complete what was yet wanting on the part of Great Britain. The death of the Emperor Paul, which was immediately followed by pacific overtures from his successor, Alexander, prevented the farther effusion of blood. The continuance of a formidable fleet in the Baltic, and the memory of the battle of Copenhagen, which, in point of fierceness surpassed, and in success nearly equalled the battle of the Nile, also contributed to the joyful event that speedily followed;—a treaty of peace and amity with the northern powers.

Having been honoured with the thanks of both houses of parliament, for the services which he had performed on the above occasion, Lord Nelson for a time retired into the bosom of his family. Short, however, was the respite which he enjoyed; for, an invasion having been threatened on the part of France, and a considerable number of small vessels having been collected along the French coast, his lordship was again called upon to exert his valour and his talents. With this view, in July, 1801, he hoisted his flag on board of the Unité frigate, then lying at Sheerness, and took the command of a squadron destined for the defence of the coast, consisting of two sail of the line, fifteen frigates, and a variety of small craft. On this occasion his lordship was invested with very extensive and unusual powers; and, in consideration of the loss of his right arm, he was indulged with the unprecedented allowance of three *aids-de-camp*. From the Unité. Lord Nelson removed his flag into the Medusa. On the 3d of August, he sailed from the Downs, with a squadron chiefly composed of gun-vessels and bombs;

bombs; and, on the following morning he made a vigorous attack upon twenty-four of the enemy's armed vessels moored off Boulogne; and in the course of the day, three were sunk, six were driven ashore much damaged, and the rest were compelled to take shelter in the harbour. This service was performed without the loss of a single man.

On the 15th of the same month, the enemy having again moored their flotilla off Boulogne, Lord Nelson directed another attack to be made by the armed boats of the squadron, which was formed into four divisions. At half past twelve at night, Captain Parker commenced the attack with the second division; but, attempting to board a brig off the mole, an instantaneous discharge of her guns and small arms, from about two hundred soldiers on her gun-wale, knocked Captain Parker, with most of the crew, upon their backs into the boat. The consequence was, that all of them were killed or badly wounded. It was afterwards discovered, that the brig had a strong netting traced up to her lower yards. The whole of Captain Parker's division fought with distinguished bravery; but, owing to the darkness of the night, and the uncertainty of the tides, the other divisions were separated from it; and, consequently it sustained a heavy loss. Many, however, of the enemy's flotilla were taken possession of by the English; but, from the disgraceful* circumstance

* The following *Impromptu* appeared in some of the public prints on this occasion :—

"Exult not, *France*, that NELSON's vengeful blow,
"Has not, *as usual*, thy destruction gain'd;
"Say what thou wilt, this truth the world must know,
"Although *unconquer'd*, thou wast left *enchain'd*."

of

of their being chained to the shore, our men were unable to bring them off.

The gazette of August the 4th, 1801, the very day on which the first attack upon Boulogne took place, announced that his majesty had been graciously pleased to grant to his lordship the dignity of baron of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, by the name, style, and title of Baron Nelson, of the Nile, and of Hilborough, in the county of Norfolk; with remainders to his father the Rev. Edmund Nelson, and to the heirs male of Susannah, the wife of Thomas Bolton, Esq. his lordship's sister.

The preliminaries of peace being shortly after signed, Lord Nelson had an opportunity of retiring to Merton, an estate which he had recently purchased, there to enjoy the society of his friends. Soon, however, was the ill-starred treaty of Amiens broken, and his lordship was again called upon to take the command of the Mediterranean fleet. He accordingly repaired thither, on board the Victory, on the 20th of May, 1803, and, with a powerful squadron, formed the blockade of Toulon. Notwithstanding his vigilance, however, a fleet escaped out of this port on the 30th of March, 1805, and shortly after formed a junction with the Cadiz squadron, Sir John Orde being obliged to retire before their superiority of force. No sooner was his lordship apprised of this event, than he followed the enemy to the West Indies; and, such was the terror of his name, that they returned without effecting any thing, and got into port after a slight engagement with the squadron of Sir Robert Calder. The enemy having thus again eluded his pursuit, he returned almost inconsolable to England; but departed soon after to

assume

assume the command of the fleet off Cadiz, when, impatient of farther delay, he had recourse to every art to induce them once more to put to sea. In this he at length proved successful; but, while he consummated his glory, he sacrificed his valued life.

Numerous are the particulars which have been received respecting the glorious and ever-memorable victory of the 21st of October; but the excellent and admirable letter of admiral, now Lord Collingwood, claims precedence of them all for its accuracy. No apology, therefore, is requisite for the following extract from this important document:—

"On Monday, the 21st inst. at day-light, when Cape Trafalgar bore E. by S. about seven leagues, the enemy was discovered six or seven miles to the eastward, the wind about west, and very light; the commander-in-chief immediately made the signal for the fleet to bear up in two columns, as they are formed in order of sailing, a mode of attack his lordship had previously directed, to avoid the inconvenience and delay, in forming a line of battle in the usual manner. The enemy's line consisted of thirty-three ships (of which eighteen were French and fifteen Spanish), commanded in chief by Admiral Villeneuve; the Spaniards, under the direction of Gravina, wore, with their heads to the northward, and formed their line of battle with great closeness and correctness; but as the mode of attack was unusual, so the structure of their line was new;—it formed a crescent convexing to leeward—so that, in leading down to their centre, I had both their van and rear abaft the beam; before the fire opened, every alternate ship was about a cable's length to windward of her second a-head and a-stern, forming a kind

kind of double line, and appeared, when on their beams to leave a very little interval between them; and this without crowding their ships. Admiral Villeneuve was in the Bucentaure in the centre, and the Prince of Asturias bore Gravina's flag in the rear; but the French and Spanish ships were mixed, without any apparent regard to order of national squadron.

"As the mode of our attack had been previously determined on, and communicated to the flag-officers and captains, few signals were necessary, and none were made, except to direct close order as the lines bore down.

"The commander-in-chief, in the Victory, led the weather column, and the Royal Sovereign, which bore my flag, the lee.

"The action began at twelve o'clock, by the leading ships of the columns breaking through the enemy's line, the commander-in-chief, about the tenth ship from the van, the second in command, about the twelfth from the rear, leaving the van of the enemy unoccupied; the succeeding ships breaking through, in all parts, astern of their leaders, and engaging the enemy at the muzzles of their guns; the conflict was severe; the enemy's ships were fought with a gallantry highly honourable to their officers, but the attack on them was irresistible; and it pleased the Almighty Disposer of all events to grant his Majesty's arms a complete and glorious victory; about three, *p. m.* many of the enemy's ships having struck their colours, their line gave way; Admiral Gravina, with ten ships, joining their frigates to leeward, stood towards Cadiz. The five headmost ships in their van tacked, and standing to the southward, to windward of the British line,

line, were engaged, and the sternmost of them taken; the others went off, leaving to his Majesty's squadron nineteen ships of the line (of which two are first-rates, the Santissima Trinidad and the Santa Anna,) with three flag officers, viz. Admiral Villeneuve (the commander-in-chief,) Don Ignatio Maria D'Aliva, vice-admiral, and the Spanish rear-admiral, Don Baltazar Hidalgo Cisneros.

"After such a victory, it may appear unnecessary to enter into encomiums on the particular parts taken by the several commanders; the conclusion says more on the subject than I have language to express; the spirit which animated all was the same; when all exert themselves zealously in their country's service, all deserve that their high merits should stand recorded; and never was high merit more conspicuous than in the battle I have described.

"The Achille (a French 74,) after having surrendered, by some mismanagement of the Frenchmen, took fire, and blew up; two hundred of her men were saved by the tenders.

"A circumstance occurred during the action, which so strongly marks the invincible spirit of British seamen, when engaging the enemies of their country, that I cannot resist the pleasure I have in making it known to their lordships; the Temeraire was boarded by accident or design, by a French ship on one side, and a Spaniard on the other; the contest was vigorous, but, in the end, the combined ensigns were torn from the poop, and the British hoisted in their places.

"Such a battle could not be fought without sustaining a great loss of men. I have not only to lament, in common with the British navy, and the British nation,

in the fall of the commander-in-chief, the loss of a hero, whose name will be immortal, and his memory ever dear to his country; but my heart is rent with the most poignant grief for the death of a friend, to whom by many years intimacy, and a perfect knowledge of the virtues of his mind, which inspired ideas superior to the common race of men, I was bound by the strongest ties of affection; a grief, to which even the glorious occasion in which he fell, does not bring the consolation which perhaps it ought; his lordship received a musket ball in his left breast, about the middle of the action, and having sent an officer to me immediately, with his last farewel, soon after expired."

So terminated the life of Horatio Lord Viscount Nelson! a life which, from the twelfth year of his age, had been indefatigably devoted to the service of his country.

Before his lordship left London for the last time, to assume the command of the fleet, he had arranged a plan, according to which he determined to fight the enemy on a new principle. "I shall never," said he, "distract the attention of my fleet on the day of action by a superabundance of signals." Early in October, his lordship summoned the admirals and captains of his fleet into the cabin of the Victory, and laid before them a new, simple, and most complete plan of attack. The scheme carried immediate conviction to his officers: they all exclaimed, that it could not but be successful! The result proved, that it was *irresistible!* The last telegraphic order which his lordship gave before the action, was a short but comprehensive one:—ENGLAND EXPECTS EVERY MAN TO DO HIS DUTY!

Among

Among the numerous details which have been given respecting the last moments of this now immortal hero, none are entitled to more attention than the following, which have been furnished by an officer who had the honour of attending him:—

"Previously to the commencement of the battle of Trafalgar, Lord Nelson went over the different decks of the Victory, saw and spoke to the different classes of seamen, encouraged them with his usual affability, and was much pleased at the manner in which the seamen had barricaded the hawse holes of the ship. All was perfect death-like silence, till just before the action began. Three cheers were given his lordship as he ascended the quarter-deck ladder. He had been particular in recommending cool, steady firing, in preference to a hurrying fire, without aim or precision, and the event justified his lordship's advice, as the masts of his opponents came tumbling down on their decks, and over their sides. Within half an hour after, the battle began to rage in its full fury; the royal marines on the poop soon felt the effect (as well as the officers, seamen, and royal marines on the quarter-deck) of the system of sharp-shooting from the tops of the Bucentaure, of 84, Admiral Villeneuve. The men began to drop fast, and poor Captain Adair, of the royal marines, was struck with a rifle-ball, which so irritated him, that he asked Lord Nelson leave to take up in the tops and place some of his royal marine party, with an officer, to counteract the destructive fire of those sharp-shooters of the enemy. The men went up the shrouds, and as Captain Adair was ascending, he fell quite dead on the poop, perforated through with near twenty balls from those marksmen.

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The action then became very hot, and Lord Nelson was advised not to appear so conspicuously in full uniform, to the mark of the topmen of the enemy. His answer ought to be recorded in the heart of every Briton, and engraven on his monument—"No," said his lordship, "whatever may be the consequence, the insignia of the honours I now wear I gained by the exertions of British seamen, under my command in various parts of the world; and in the hour of danger, I am proud to shew them and the enemies of old England, I will never part with them; if it please God I am to fall, I will expire with these trophies entwined round my heart." About a quarter before two the fatal bullet struck his lordship above the star on his left side, and his secretary, Mr. Scott, fell quite dead on the deck, with many seamen and marines.

"Lord Nelson was conveyed below, and perfectly sure that the wound was fatal. A master's mate, one of his signal officers, and a *protegé* of his lordship, was with him to his last moments—he was to have been promoted to a lieutenancy by his lordship, for his great merit. The surgeon came and probed the wound; the ball was extracted, but his lordship, though apparently exhausting, told the surgeon he was sure the wound was fatal, and begged, when he had dressed him, he would attend the other poor fellows, equal sufferers with himself. Frequent messages passed from Lord Nelson to Captain Hardy, respecting the fate of the battle. His countenance brightened as the number of ships that had struck were related; but when the number of 19 sail was mentioned, a hectic flush of joy appeared on his wan face, and he seemed to revive a little. It was the hectic of a moment. Before, and after

after he was wounded, several kind messages and inquiries came from Lord Collingwood, and it appeared to sooth the last hour and moment of this great hero to find himself so ably seconded. About a quarter before four, the battle ceased to rage with its pristine fury, and word being brought below that the defeat of the enemy was complete, the dying Nelson pronounced the word victory! but, upon attempting to repeat it, he convulsively grasped the hand of one of his friends near him—the blood rushed from the lungs into the throat, and he expired calmly, and without a groan."

The general result of this unparalleled action, as appears by the subsequent returns of Lord Collingwood, is, that out of the combined fleets of France and Spain, consisting of thirty-three sail, four were taken, and fifteen destroyed. Four of those which escaped from the battle of Trafalgar were afterwards taken by Sir R. J. Strachan's squadron. Thus only ten sail were left, six of which were such complete wrecks as to be scarcely able to get into port.

No seaman, whose exploits embellish the naval annals of Britain, ever suffered so much in his person, or acquired so much glory for himself, and for his country, as Lord Nelson. The loss of an eye, an arm, a wound on the forehead, and several contusions in the body, are so many proofs of the former assertions; while St. Vincent's, Aboukir, Copenhagen, and Trafalgar, where he fought, conquered, and died, attest the truth of the latter. In the course of his professional career, he had effected the capture of forty-seven sail of the line, and, by sea and land, had been engaged in one hundred and twenty-four actions.

The intelligence of the hero's death was received, by all classes, with the deepest sorrow and regret. Every one exulted in the victory which had been obtained for his country; but all deplored the price which had been paid. His Majesty shed tears for his loss, and some minutes elapsed before he could give utterance to his feelings! How great, how good, must that man have been, whose death could excite such universal and such deep distress!

The well-earned title of Earl of Trafalgar has already been conferred on the brother of the deceased; and it is understood to be in the contemplation of government to purchase an estate, to be called Trafalgar, and to settle it on the descendants of Lord Nelson for ever. The munificence of a great nation can confer no honour too splendid to perpetuate the memory of its most illustrious hero.

The cathedral church of St. Paul is destined to receive his ashes; and thither, in many a distant age, when every heart that now beats responsive to the story of his fame shall be cold—cold as the marble of his tomb, shall the patriot sons of Briton repair, to bathe, with tears, the hallowed urn of the victor!

We have already far exceeded our limits; but the importance of the character, to whose memory we have been offering an humble tribute, presents a sufficient apology for the transgression. Our sketch, however, shall now terminate with the following animated and impressive Ode to its illustrious subject.

ODE

ON THE DEATH OF LORD NELSON.

"SAY, what is glory? what is fame?
The sage's, statesman's, warrior's wreath,
The pomp and pageantry of name?
The brilliant bubble bursts at death."
Curse on the cold, and callous heart,
(There nought, or great, or good can dwell)
That then, at once, wou'd say "depart,"
To all that prompts us to excel;
The statesman's labours, and the sage's lore,
Die not with them—for ever they remain:
Nor time, nor revolution dire, their reign
Can end: while on th' instructive page
Poring intent from age to age;
We wiser, better grow, by feeding on their store.

And shall the warrior, like the wind,
Or like the bird which cleaves the air,
Leave not a single trace behind?
Unmark'd, unhonour'd, only share
The common, undistinguish'd, "*Here he lies!*"
No, never! in each Briton's grateful breast,
The patriot warrior shall for ever rest:
There, there immortal live, because for us he dies.

No, never from each British heart
Shall Nelson's lov'd remembrance part,
Deep-stamp'd, indelible, and fair
Aboukir's glorious eve is there.
There, when intrepid issuing forth,
He quell'd the children of the *North*;
Trafalgar's blest, but fatal day,
Ne'er from our minds shall pass away;
Our latest sons shall, sorrowing, tell
How Nelson conquer'd, how he fell.

He fell!—in glory's arms he lies;
Alas! too soon she claim'd her son.
"Not so," she says, "th' immortal prize
Already gain'd, his race is run.
He dies, possessed of all that years could give:
He liv'd an age, and shall for ages live."

Sweet is the patriot victor's death,
In rapture he resigns his breath:
His country's praise, his country's sighs,
Are present while the hero dies.
'Tis only coward guilt that fears.
Embalm'd in his lov'd country's tears,
He knows his dear-earn'd fame shall last
Till Britain's day and time are past.
Far other feelings must attend
The Corsican's departing ray;
His poison'd host his soul shall rend,
And cloud his dark and dying day,
Mid the fell gnashes of despair shall lower,
And Jaffa's screams shall rack his latest hour.

Never unmix'd to human kind
Comes the unfrequent cup of joy;
Our smiles and tears are ever join'd,
We taste no bliss without alloy.
Yet, from the foulest dregs, on cherub wings,
Hope rising, bids us mourn, but not despair;
Trust, Britain! to thy naval sons, for there,
See! from his Phœnix ashes future NELSONS rise!

MR. JOHN BIGLAND.

" HAD not a fortunate combination of circumstances drawn Newton from his rustic solitude," says the ingenious writer, whose character we are proceeding to sketch, " he would, perhaps, never have been any thing more than a farmer, in the parish of Colsterworth, and never have illuminated the world by his learned studies and his sublime discoveries. Without a lucky coincidence of causes, neither Nicholas IV. nor Sixtus V. would ever have ascended the papal throne, nor Justinian or Basil, that of Constantinople; and how many Newtons, Nicholas', Sixtus', Justinians and Basils are there not, perhaps, at the present moment, in the lowest stations and the most indigent circumstances of humanity; how many such, in all ages, have lived undistinguished and sunk into the grave unnoticed, without having met with any of those singular coincidences which drew from obscurity those favourites of fortune, and rescued their names from oblivion."*

These observations apply, with considerable force, to Mr. Bigland himself. This gentleman, who now resides at Rossington, near Doncaster, became an author, as it were, by chance. His works are now generally

* Vide *Bigland's Essays on Various Subjects.* Vol. I. p 212.

nerally esteemed, and extensively circulated; yet it was only in the year 1803 that his literary career was commenced.

Our author is a native of Skirlaugh, a small village, in Holderness. From early life, he has been engaged in the education of youth; an employment which, as we have before had occasion to observe, is one of the most arduous that an individual can possibly undertake. In this toilsome occupation, however, Mr. Bigland spent thirteen years at Harpham, a village near Driffield, where he is well known, and where his academical labours are borne in respectful remembrance. From the liberality of a Mr. Ashton, a wealthy and respectable gentleman farmer, he was induced to remove from Harpham, to Bole, near Gainsborough, where he resided for the period of four years. He next lived for some time, at Finningley; and went from thence to Rossington, having been elected to a school there, with a small endowment, under the direction of the corporation of Doncaster.

When young, Mr. Bigland acted as an assistant in a respectable academy in London; but, that situation not being congenial with his wishes, he returned into the country.

> "'Tis sweet, escaping from the throng's turmoil,
> To breathe the cooling freshness of the grove!
> And sweet, reclining on the billowy soil,
> Through the fair regions of delight to rove,
> Exult in friendship, or repose in love!
> For, all we fondly cherish, dearly prize,
> All that the fancy or the heart can move,
> Full oft the busy scene of life denies;
> Too cold such joys to know, while falsely thought too wise."

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At this period, Mr. Bigland's attention was principally directed to the mathematics, which he considered as a study the most suitable to his profession; but he had never employed himself in any kind of composition. To a sound, and well-organized mind, it is perfectly natural that, when forcibly impressed with any abstract idea, it should bend its powers toward the elucidation of that idea. This seems to have been the case with Mr. Bigland, as far as relates to the performance of his first literary work. His "*Reflections on the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ; and of the probable Consequences of a public Exhibition of his Ascension*" (published in 1803), were the result of certain doubts which had long perplexed his mind. After having fully considered the matter, in all the different lights in which it could possibly be exhibited, the arguments, by which he combated his own scepticisms, were committed to paper at leisure hours, in the sole view of laying them before some of his particular friends; and it was long before he could resolve on their publication. Perceiving, however, that the subject had never before been so amply discussed, and thinking that the investigation might be of use to some, he at length consented to submit his reflections to the public.

"The private manner in which the ascension of Christ took place," says Mr. Bigland, "so very different from the public exhibition, which might have been made of a spectacle so extraordinary, and of so important a nature, is a circumstance which has furnished the adversaries of Christianity with arguments against the divine authority of the Christian religion. They have long regarded this as the most vulnerable part

part of the system. In this view they have not failed to single it out as a principal object of attack, and to level against it their most formidable artillery." The grand aim of our author is, therefore, to expose the fallacy of the following imposing chain of reasoning, advanced by Tom Paine, of infidel notoriety.

"The ascension," says Paine, "supposing it to have taken place, admitted of public and ocular demonstration, like the ascension of a balloon, or the sun at noon-day, to all Jerusalem at least. A thing which all are required to believe, requires that the proof and evidence of it should be equal to all, and universal; and as the public visibility of this last related act (the ascension) was the only evidence that could give sanction to the former part (the resurrection), the whole of it falls to the ground, because that evidence never was given."

"This method of reasoning," observes Mr. Bigland, "appears at the first glance to carry with it very great force; but, upon examination, that apparent force will be found to be no more than a sudden flash upon the mind, unprepared to meet the argument with critical and circumstantial investigation. "In the course of his enquiry, Mr. Bigland exhibits a striking display of historical knowledge, supported by a concatenation of forcible and luminous argument; in which he fully succeeds in overthrowing the false positions of Tom Paine. From his investigation of the subject, "grounded upon a general view of the circumstances of mankind in different parts of the globe, and in every period of time," our author draws the following conclusions:

"That no transaction, however public, no spectacle, however

however conspicuous, in whatever part of the world it might be exhibited, could, by any known operation of physical or moral causes, come to the knowledge of all mankind: That as the ascension of Christ could not have been visible to all men, it seems perfectly consistent with the divine wisdom and justice, that the inhabitants of Jerusalem and its vicinity should be deprived of an indulgence which all nations could not enjoy, and of which they had, by the whole tenor of their conduct, rendered themselves of all men, the most unworthy: that the actual effects of Christ's mission have not been materially different from, nor much inferior in magnitude, permanency, and extent, to those which, by the most probable conjecture, we may suppose would have been produced by the most public exhibition of his ascension: That if this interesting event had been accompanied by "public and occular demonstration, like the ascension of a balloon," as Mr. Paine expresses it, even in that case, Christianity could not have been propagated in the world by any other means than by an apostolic mission, and the instrumentality of preaching; and consequently—That a public exhibition of the ascension was in no wise necessary to prove the divine authority of the Christian revelation; especially as the subsequent propagation and establishment of Christianity, in direct opposition to all human power and policy, and by no means apparently inadequate, is a phænomenon which has no parallel in the history of the world, a permanent miracle, incessantly operating through a series of ages, and of far greater weight, as well as of a nature less ambiguous, less susceptible of illusion, and far

far less liable to be misunderstood than any single miracle, however wonderful in its nature, and however public in its performance."

Mr. Bigland observes, with much felicity of expression, "that Mr. Hume's argument has a natural tendency to invalidate all that the deists can alledge in favour of the necessity of a public exhibition of the ascension, as requisite to prove the truth of Christianity; for as that gentleman asserts, that no human testimony can be sufficiently strong to render a miracle credible, it is evident that if the ascension of Christ had been public and visible, not only to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, but to those of the whole Roman empire, nay, even to all the men then existing upon the whole earth, he and his disciples would not have thought fit to believe it."

The well-merited approbation, which Mr. Bigland's treatise experienced, gave him the most flattering encouragement to proceed in his literary career; but, whether his modesty prevented him from forming a sufficiently high estimate of his own powers, or, whether, at that period, some other cause might operate on his mind, we have not been able to learn: certain it is, however, that he had then no intention of devoting himself to the profession of an author. But an unforeseen cause determined his conduct. A wound, received by accident, confined him several weeks to his room; and, preventing him from stirring abroad during almost a whole winter, imposed on him the necessity of dispelling *ennui*, and relieving the tedious languor of confinement, by some literary pursuit. It was in this confinement that he projected, and carried

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into execution, his "*Letters on Ancient and Modern History*;" the plan of which will be fully comprehended by a perusal of the following extract from the author's preface:—

"To facilitate the acquisition and remembrance of the most important, the most interesting, and indeed the only essential part of historical knowledge, is the design of the following Letters. A summary of the following facts of Ancient and Modern History is brought forward in chronological order, divided into ten distinct periods, of which the first includes the whole space of time from the earliest records to the subversion of the Babylonian monarchy; the second contains the space between the establishment of the Persian empire, by Cyrus, and its overthrow by Alexander; the third comprises the time which elapsed from the reign of Alexander to the coming of Christ; and the fourth begins at the Christian æra, and ends at the elevation of Constantine to the sovereignty of the Roman empire; the reign of that prince, on account of its singular importance and conspicuous effects, is distinctly considered as the fifth period; from the death of Constantine to the final subversion of the empire, constitutes the sixth period; the seventh begins at the subversion of the Roman empire, and continues to the reign of Charlemagne; the eighth begins at the death of Charlemagne and continues till the fifteenth century, which was peculiarly characterized by the revival of letters, the invention of printing, the discovery of America, the extension of commerce, &c. the ninth comprehends that age of enterprise and adventure which begins at the middle of the fifteenth and continues to near the end of the sixteenth century;

tury; and the tenth period commences from that important æra, and exhibits a general view of modern times." . . . . "Reflections, rather than details of facts, constitute the work, the historical summary serving only as a necessary basis for observations. The intention of the author has been to render it conducive to the information of those who are but little acquainted with historical reading, and who have neither leisure nor inclination to peruse the numerous and prolix treatises which constitute the mass of historical information, as well as to make it an useful remembrancer to those who are conversant in history, and have perused more circumstantial details of those things which are here exhibited in a general representation. The whole design is to exhibit a concentrated view of the history of mankind, to delineate the state of the human mind under all its various modifications, arising from external and adventitious causes."

After the warm eulogiums which the work has experienced from our periodical critics,* it would be superfluous

* The *Monthly Review* says:—"Mr. Bigland displays in this volume a well-cultivated and comprehensive mind. His style is generally correct, though not highly polished; his information is extensive; and the many pertinent remarks and inferences, with which he has enriched this summary of general history, meet our cordial approbation."—The *British Critic* is equally favourable. It says:—"We are well pleased with this publication, which, founded on the authority of the most celebrated historians, exhibits a very useful manual for the younger student. It is written with great vigour and perspicuity; nor do we see any sentiments obtruded, against which, as they relate either to religion or politics, it appears necessary to caution the young reader. It is an useful undertaking, well executed."—The *Critical Review* observes,

perfluous in us to offer our mite of approbation. We may be permitted, however, to exhibit a brief passage, which will convey to such of our readers as may not yet have perused the entire performance, a tolerably correct idea of our author's style and mode of discussion. The passage which we have selected relates to the vision of Constantine, the Roman Emperor. After enquiring into the various reasons which might have influenced the mind of Constantine in his embracing the Christian religion, Mr. Bigland proceeds as follows:—

"Every circumstance in the life of so conspicuous a character as Constantine must be interesting. The singular and important event which is supposed to have determined the conduct of that emperor, in what has had the most decided influence on the condition of mankind in all succeeding ages, merits, in a pre-eminent degree, the attention and examination of posterity. It is difficult, it is perhaps impossible, either to ascertain the reality of the fact, or to prove it a fiction, with such force of evidence as to silence all objections. All that can be done, is to bring forward to distinct inspection the circumstances and arguments which seem to stamp the marks of authenticity upon the relation, as well as those which appear to diminish its credibility. Every one must, from the examination of circumstances and appearances, draw his own conclusions respecting the authenticity of this extraordinary

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serves, that, "this little historic digest, collected from most unexceptionable authors, is executed with great neatness and propriety. The divisions, or 'periods,' are clear and discriminate. The different historic details are distinct and perspicuous: the reflections just and appropriate."

 narrative

narrative, which, in substance is thus related:—Constantine being on his march towards Rome, and revolving in his own mind the hazardous nature of the enterprize, and the mysterious dispensations of the Divine Providence, and fully convinced of the all-controling power of an Omnipotent Being, whose name he knew not how to invoke, and whose favour he knew not how to ask, discovered in the air the figure of a resplendent cross, with this inscription legibly conspicuous: *In hoc signo vinces.* "By this sign thou shalt overcome." Both he and his army were astonished at the sight, but not knowing how to interpret the celestial omen, and finding no satisfactory assurance from the established rules of Pagan interpretation, he still remained in the utmost agitation of mind, between hope and fear, between faith and unbelief. However, it is added, that in the succeeding night Christ himself appeared to the emperor in his sleep, displaying before his eyes the same triumphant banner of the cross which he had seen in the air the day before, and unequivocally promised him the victory over his antagonist, under its auspices. Constantine immediately adopted the cross as his standard, and caused its figure to be engraven on the shields of his soldiers; and, it is certain, that the labarum, or cross, with the mysterious monogram, expressive of the name of Christ, inclosed in a sort of crown, and placed on the top, was used as the imperial standard, both during the reign of Constantine and his successors. After this miraculous vision and dream, Constantine, full of confidence, marched towards the capital of the world, and at the very gates of Rome gained that signal victory over Maxentius, which ended in the destruction of the tyrant,

tyrant, and placed the conqueror above all opposition. The success of Constantine is certain, however doubtful the miracle preceding it may be esteemed.

"Eusebius, bishop of Cæsarea, an historian of great and deserved celebrity, and generally esteemed of unimpeachable veracity, a man of extraordinary erudition, and an intimate confident of Constantine, is the author of this narrative; and asserts, that he had the relation of that extraordinary circumstance from the emperor's own mouth in private conversation; so far the history seems to bear such a stamp of authenticity as few historical relations can boast. Few historians can produce such respectable authority for what they relate.

"But, after examining the affirmative side of the question, if we turn to the reverse, it will appear that Eusebius related the circumstance some years after the death of Constantine, when he could neither attest the truth, nor expose the falsehood of the story. This circumstance, at least if the narrative of Eusebius gave the first intelligence of Constantine's vision, diminishes very much its credibility; for it would, indeed, be very strange if that emperor had never mentioned so extraordinary an incident to any other person.

"But are those, who call in question the veracity of Eusebius, certain that the public were not informed of that extraordinary vision before that writer undertook to transmit the particulars of it to posterity? Does it not rather seem that the fact had been published, and had acquired a general notoriety before Eusebius wrote his narrative? The whole circumstance appears to be of such a nature as to be incapable of concealment. It is represented as having been visible to the whole

whole army, composed of a mixed number of Christians and Pagans; and he is said to have consulted the Pagan priests and soothsayers, as well as the Christian divines, concerning the meaning of the mysterious omen. We are told that the Christians whom he con-consulted on the subject of this celestial prodigy, having promised him certain victory under the invisible banner of the cross, he caused the labarum to be made, which he adopted for his military standard. If this be a just representation of the case, the thing was of such a nature that it could not fail of being publicly known and talked of. Indeed, it seems that if it had not been a fact of general notoriety, Eusebius durst not have ventured to impose upon the world so romantic a tale, especially in connection with circumstances of so public a nature, and so open to investigation; that, supposing it to have been fictious, it must have been soon exploded and ridiculed, both by Pagans and intelligent Christians.

"It appears, however, from pretty good historical evidence, that the labarum was not adopted by Constantine, as his military standard, until many years after this event. Constantine not being yet sole emperor, he might, probably, for some particular reasons think it not proper to make any alteration in the military ensigns of the empire. Without attempting to fix the exact time when the labarum was first brought into use as the imperial standard, unbiassed reason must perceive, and candid impartiality must confess, that this is not an affair of such importance as to be of any weight in estimating the authenticity of the history in question; for when the government of the empire was divided among a plurality of emperors, it would

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have been an inconsistent, and, perhaps, a dangerous innovation, to adopt the cross for the military ensign of one division of the empire, while the eagles were displayed in another. The most proper time for adopting the cross as the imperial standard, was certainly after a christian had become sole master of the empire."

The originality of genius is a subject which has puzzled the metaphysical philosophers of past ages, as well as of the present. Some contend that, to excel in any particular art or science, a man must be born with a genius, or an innate propensity, towards that particular art or science; while others assert, and endeavour to prove, that education alone is the parent of all our excellence. If we admit the former position, we must admit the doctrine of innate ideas also; while, on the other hand, the supposition of genius being acquired by education cannot be accounted for on any known principle of our nature. That any two individuals can be educated precisely alike, is wholly impossible; the difference, however, which may occur in the education of two people may be too trivial to attract the eye of general notice; yet, how widely divergent from the common centre, in how diametrically opposite a manner, may their respective talents be displayed, although human sagacity is incapable of discovering the impulse which may occasion such variety. It is fair, therefore, to infer, that the difference must proceed from physical rather than from moral causes. "A happy genius," observes Dryden, "is the gift of nature; it depends on the influence of the stars, say the astrologers; on the organs of the body, say the naturalists; it is the particular gift of heaven, say the divines,

divines, both christians and heathens. How to improve it, many books can teach us; how to obtain it, none; that nothing can be done without it, all agree." These remarks of our great poet possess much force and considerable truth. Yet Dryden was, as much perhaps as any man, the creature of education. That genius can depend on the influence of the stars, no one, now that the absurdities of judicial astrology are exploded, will for a moment contend. That it depends on the organs of the body, is a position which might be refuted by thousands of instances. It is the practice, in some parts of the world, to consign to death such children as may be born with a deficiency in their organisation; but, had the sweet bard, who sung

"Thy forests, Windsor, and thy green retreats,"

been subject to the horrible crime of infanticide, what a treasure should we have been deprived of. A sound organization of the body is considered as conducive to the sanity of the intellectual powers; yet it is notorious, that some of the most brilliant geniuses which the world ever produced, have beamed forth from corporeal frames of the utmost fragility and insignificance. Genius must then be the particular gift of heaven. It is not, perhaps, too bold, to hazard the assertion, that every individual being possesses a genius, or predisposition, for some particular occupation, in which he would be found to excel, did ever an opportunity for calling forth his powers present itself. Genius may be compared to the latent spark in the flint, which waits but for the collisive stroke to call it into life and action. It may be elicited by education,

cation, or by chance, or it may lie for ever dormant; but its non-appearance does not prove its non-existence. Even the remotest causes frequently operate in producing a display of unexpected talent. Had it not been for the indiscretions of his youth, the immortal Shakespeare, in all probability would have lived and died unknown; his name, like that of "common men," would have been forgotten; and Britain would not have to boast her giving birth to the first poet of the world.

These remarks are drawn forth by a perusal of the literary productions of Mr. Bigland. This gentleman, doubtlessly, received a respectable education. His attention was chiefly directed to mathematical studies. Yet we are not aware that he ever gave indication of eclipsing Euclid, or of bearing away the palm from Archimedes. His mind must have possessed a predisposition to other pursuits. Literature was the sphere in which he was destined to move with propriety and effect. The sympathetic chord was at length struck, and we beheld him fast emerging from obscurity. The stroke, however, was not suddenly effective; for it was not till a second stimulus had presented itself, that Mr. Bigland determined on the full exertion of his powers. History was the path which he chose, and he has trodden it with ample success.

After the appearance of his *Letters on Ancient and Modern History*, a field of greater novelty, if not of more extensive utility, presented itself to his view. Europe, long writhing beneath the horrors of an expensive, a protracted, and a sanguinary war, had but just begun to taste the blessings of peace, when the short truce which had been granted her by the modern

scourge

scourge of mankind, the Attila of the present age, was infamously violated. Britain—that power which alone had braved, had fought, had conquered the insulting conqueror of the continent—was again driven to a "single-handed contest." The moment was critical, and arrested the attention of all. Mr. Bigland seized the opportunity, and, with a spirit of patriotism which did him honour, yet with a moderation which reflected on him equal credit, succeeded in an attempt to prove the superiority of Britain "against the world in arms." We allude to his *Letters on the Modern History and Political Aspect of Europe*,* which appeared in 1804. Their contents are of so multifarious and comprehensive a nature as not easily to admit of a brief analysis; but, "the plan of the performance," says the author in his Preface, "is, to consider the political state of Europe in three distinct points of view, as implicated in the vortices, and connected with the interests of the three predominating powers, Great Britain, France, and Russia. Historical and geographical illustrations are occasionally introduced." We cannot enter at any length into an examination of the work, but shall observe, *en passant*, that it abounds with judicious remark, and clear and forcible argument. It cannot fail of exciting attention in the political and historical reader. We must add, that Mr. Bigland's account of the Germanic constitution exhibits a more luminous and satisfactory view of that

* Respecting these Letters, the *British Critic* says, that "they discuss, in turn, almost all the great questions which can be agitated by politicians of the present hour. The principles of the author are every where sound and patriotic, and his knowledge is surprisingly extensive." This is not *faint praise*.

complex

complex machine than any that we have met with on so contracted a scale. Indeed the peculiar skill of our author seems to consist in presenting a condensed, yet clear statement of whatever he undertakes. *Multum in parvo* might be assumed as his motto; and yet, paradoxical as it may appear, his language too frequently displays that verbosity which is so tedious and disgusting in superficial and common writers. We sometimes also meet with "periods of a mile," without regularity or harmony of construction, which fatigue the ear and injure the sense. Perspicuity, often accompanied by vigour of expression, is however, the leading characteristic of Mr. Bigland's style.

The well-merited approbation, which our author's former works had experienced, induced him, towards the close of 1805, to publish a couple of volumes of *Essays on Various Subjects**.—Essays form a branch of polite literature which will always meet with admirers. A volume of *miscellaneous* essays must contain something adapted to the taste of *every* reader. The works of Addison, of Steele, of Johnson, of Cumberland, &c. sufficiently prove this assertion.

On the subject of *National Establishments in Religion*, our author has some remarks, which, to us, present an aspect of novelty. "It has, indeed, been very justly observed," says he, "that in every country, dissenters are not in general less conscientious and exact in the performance of religious and moral duties, than

* These Essays are dedicated to the Corporation of Doncaster, in the vicinity of which town our author resides. This respectable body, we understand, have lately voted him the sum of fifty guineas, as a testimony of their approbation of his literary productions.

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those who are members of the establishment. It is, however, from the established church that their religious and moral ideas were originally drawn. Moral principles, inculcated early in life, have a great influence on the heart of man, even after the speculative doctrines with which they were associated, are rejected by the understanding. The founders of every dissenting sect were originally members of some established church, and from that establishment had derived those fundamental doctrines of Christianity, and those ideas of christian morality, which they have taught to their followers, and transmitted to posterity. The piety, therefore, of dissenters, however sincere, or their morals however irreproachable, afford no proof of the inutility of an established church as a vehicle of general instruction. When the matter, therefore, is considered in this point of view, which is certainly just, dissenters are under greater obligations to national churches than superficial enquiry would discover, as these institutions have been the primary source of their religious knowledge, and the medium through which they received their theological and moral ideas."—We do not recollect having before met with the subject placed in the same point of view.

The question—*Whether dissenters ought to regard it as any injustice or oppression, to be obliged to contribute to the support of the established church?*—is here discussed at large. Mr. Bigland, with much force and perspicuity of argument, contends for the negative; observing, that, " dissenters, like others, must live in the crowd of mankind, and transact their affairs not solely with persons of their own sect, but with the promiscuous multitude. It is, consequently, their interest, as well as that of others, that some national system

system should be established for the general propagation of christianity, in order to render the knowledge of its precepts accessible to every one, and to bring them forward to the attention of those who would not, of their own accord, make them the subject of their enquiry. Our author, who enters very largely into the enquiry, farther contends, that "if a person reside in Turkey, it is undoubtedly more to his interest that the Mahometan establishment should be supported, than that no religion whatever should exist among the people." The contents of this essay will be found highly interesting, as well to churchmen as to dissenters of every description.

On the subject of national education, Mr. Bigland is a privileged speaker. He, indeed, offers some remarks, which are worthy of attention, even from the legislature itself. "The population of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland," says he," "cannot be estimated at more than about fourteen or fifteen millions, of which, supposing the period of public education to extend from the age of eight to that of fourteen, not more than one fifth part, or about three millions at the most, could at one time be under tuition. This number of pupils, allotting twenty to each master, and none ought to have more, would require one hundred and fifty thousand instructors, who, at a salary of sixty pounds per ann. each, would require nine millions of pounds per ann. for their support. This statement, which in its general principles, is applicable to all the other European countries, exhibits an expenditure too great for any of them to support; for although it might be nominally less in most of the continental states than in Great Britain, it would not

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be less in reality when their relative wealth is taken into the account.

"The foregoing calculation, however, is made on an extensive and liberal plan, which might be considerably reduced. If the period of education were limited to the three years, from nine to twelve, instead of the six from eight to fourteen, only half of the before supposed number would be under tuition at once, and only seventy-five thousand preceptors required, and if the number of pupils allotted to each were extended to thirty, no more than fifty thousand masters would be necessary. If to each of these, a salary of fifty, instead of sixty pounds per ann. were allowed, the whole expence of the institution would amount to only two millions and an half per ann. On this contracted plan, the great business of national education would be carried on in a manner beyond all comparison better than that in which it is now managed. If we consider also the many schools already endowed, and the consequent deductions on that account, together with the number of the more opulent members of the community, who would prefer academies of their own chusing to those of the national establishment, the public expence of that institution might undoubtedly be reduced below the sum of two millions per annum."

The adoption of some such a measure as the above might unquestionably be attended by the highest advantages to the community. At all events, it is worthy of the most serious consideration.

It was our intention to notice some others of Mr. Bigland's Essays, but we find that we have already exceeded the limits which we had prescribed. From the

the specimens already exhibited, it will, however, be seen, that the performance is entitled to considerable praise.† But it is in historical composition that our author's *forte* chiefly lies. In tracing the rise, progress, decline, and fall of empires, his pen is in its proper element.

We are likely soon, however, to witness a novel effort from Mr. Bigland, who, we understand, is now occupied in the composition of a series of *Letters on Natural History*, exhibiting a view of the power, the wisdom, and the goodness of the Deity, displayed in the formation of the Universe, and in the various relations of utility which inferior beings have to the human species. This work is intended chiefly for the use of schools; and, from the known correct principles of its author, as well as from his literary talents, there is no doubt of its success being commensurate with his expectations.

Mr. Bigland is now past the meridian of life; yet, though he has but recently commenced his literary career, he will, in all probability, leave a name behind him that will not soon be forgotten. He now resides at Finningley, having declined his scholastic occupation.

† Prefixed to these Essays is a numerous and respectable list of subscribers; foremost of which appears the name of the Bishop of St. David's, who, sensible of the merits of the author, has interested himself much in patronizing the present work.

MR. ABRAHAM NEWLAND.

PERHAPS there is scarcely an individual, throughout the British empire, who is unacquainted with this gentleman's signature. The value of his *notes of hand* is well known, as none of them was ever dishonoured.

Mr. Newland is intimately connected with the Bank of England, and is best known as the chief cashier of that grand national institution. Most of our readers are aware, that the arcana of banking, and of bills of exchange, are supposed to have originated in Italy; and that a colony of Lombards, by means of the heraldic insignia of their duchy, and by the name of their country, have supplied our pawnbrokers with sign-posts,* and have furnished an appellation for the street † in which many of our principal bankers reside. It was not, however, until the year 1693, five years after the revolution of 1688, that the Bank of England was established. It is now unquestionably the first commercial company in Europe, and the only institution of the kind in the world. Imitations have been attempted, both in monarchical and republican France, but the attempts have uniformly failed; and it indeed appears, that no institution of this nature can flourish,

* The three balls are the arms of Lombardy.

† Lombard-street.

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or even exist, but in a country where liberty forms the basis of the constitution. In several of the continental capitals there are *court bankers*, but a *national bank* is a thing wholly unknown.

Mr. Newland has no ancestral honours to boast, but he has distinguished himself through life by the most regular attention to business, by the strictest integrity, and by the most exact punctuality in all his engagements.

He was born, we are informed, about the year 1729, or 1730, at the house of his father, a baker, in King-street, Southwark; and consequently is now in the 75th, or 76th year of his age. His education was probably of a mercantile nature, as, on the 27th of February, 1748, nearly sixty years ago, he was appointed to a clerkship in the bank. Even at this usually volatile period of life, his attention and regularity were conspicuous, and obtained for him the approbation of his superiors. He rose, through the different gradations of service, until the 19th of January, 1775, when he attained the respectable and confidential office which he has holden ever since—that of chief cashier. He is also secretary and agent to the commissioners appointed by act of parliament for the reduction of the national debt.

Mr. Newland has never entered the marriage state. As a private character he ranks very high. In his social hours he is a pleasant companion, enjoys the pleasures of the table in moderation, loves anecdote, and laughs heartily at a good story, of which he is passionately fond. At a quarter past nine in the morning he is constantly to be seen at his desk, and is unremittingly occupied in the duties of his office till three

in-

in the afternoon. In business, his deportment is respectable, his manners are affable, and his activity, attention, and methodical mode of dispatch, may still be looked up to as a model for imitation by the junior clerks. As chief cashier, he is entitled to a *suite* of apartments in the bank, where he constantly resides, and from which, for a period of thirty or forty years, he has not once been absent, except during a few weeks illness. His only relaxation, for many summers past, has been a daily ride in the Islington stage, to a cottage at Highbury, where he drinks tea; and, after inhaling the fresh air, and contemplating *the beauties of the country*, he returns regularly in the evening to the bank.

The imprudence of a certain gentleman, high in confidence at the bank, was some time ago the source of much distress to Mr. Newland, who is known to have entertained for him no common portion of esteem. It has indeed been reported, that a certain degree of *illegitimate* consanguinity existed between them; but on this point we are not informed.

The amount of Mr. Newland's wealth is unknown; but, from his economy, from the emoluments of his office, and from the facilities which his situation affords him of enriching himself in the money market, it is conjectured to be immense. The rectitude of his conduct, however, is sacred from the shadow of suspicion. Avarice, indeed, does not appear to be the idol of his worship: for, in one instance, he is known to have subscribed the sum of 200l. as a voluntary contribution; and, in another, a sum of money being wanted for rebuilding the church of *St. Peter-le-Poor*, in Broad-street, it was instantly advanced by him to the

the parish, at common interest, although he could certainly have turned it to much better account.

The life of such a man as Mr. Newland, who is constantly engaged in one unvarying routine of business, affords but little room for remark. To this circumstance must be attributed the briefness of the above sketch; on the accuracy of which, however, a full reliance may be placed.

CHARLES MAURICE TALLEYRAND DE PERIGORD.

" Like Cromwell damned to everlasting fame."

POPE.

THIS profligate nobleman, poor and despised at the Revolution, is now one of the richest men in Europe, and is justly considered as the principal and most valuable assistant of Buonaparte, in preserving a revolutionary government in France, and in maintaining a revolutionary spirit in Europe.

Descended from one of the most ancient families in France, Talleyrand was born at Paris, on the 7th of March, 1754. He is the younger son of a younger branch of the Counts of Peregord, who, three centuries ago, were sovereigns of a country in the south-western part of France, yet called Peregord.* Though nobly born, the circumstances of his parents were not such as to afford him the prospect of hereditary possessions; and, being club-footed from his birth, at an early period of his life he was destined for the church. He commenced his education at the college of *Louis le Grand*, where, in 1769, he obtained the first prize for

* Prince de Chalais is the title of the eldest son of the first branch of the Talleyrand de Perigord family.

learning

learning in his class; but, as his early depravity was proportionate to his genius, he was at the same time publicly reprimanded for the glaring irregularity of his conduct. During the Easter week, in 1768, at which period he was only fourteen years of age, he went to a public brothel, got involved in a quarrel, refused to give his adversary satisfaction, was in consequence thrown out of a two-pair of stairs window into the street, and had both his legs broken by the fall. Refusing to state his name and place of abode, he was carried to an hospital, where he remained four days before it was ascertained what had become of him. The superior of the college having learned the cause of his accident, Talleyrand was refused re-admission; and it is recorded of him, that, when informed of his disgrace, though lying on a bed of sickness, he flew into a passion, and swore that it should not be for want of his active endeavours and philosophical zeal, if, five-and-twenty years afterwards, christian teachers and christian pupils were still found in France; or if churches were not changed into theatres, and colleges into brothels. How steadily he has acted upon this vindictive oath, his native country has experienced, and all Europe can attest.

Two years before the period of this event, Talleyrand's father had died, and he was now under the care of his uncle, the Count de Peregord. This nobleman had him secretly brought from the hospital to his palace, *Rue de l' Université, Fauxbourg St. Germain*; and, in the autumn of the year, he was placed under the care of the same governor who superintended the education of his cousin, the Prince de Chalais. His talents continued to unfold themselves with celerity and splendour,

splendour, but, if, possible, his depravity made a still more rapid progress.

We pass on to a "deed of dreadful note."—In the neighbourhood of the Count's palace resided a Madame Gauchier, a widow with five children, three of whom were daughters. A scanty pension allowed her by government—her husband having been a captain and knight of the order of St. Louis—proved insufficient for the support of her family, and she and her daughters had taken up the business of mantua-makers. By splendid presents and flattering offers, the unsuspecting innocence of the girls was soon seduced; and in less than six months, Maria and Amy, the one aged eighteen, the other sixteen, were in a state of pregnancy. For the alledged purpose of procuring abortion, some drugs were presented by their lover; but, so deleterious were their effects, that they immediately deprived Amy of her life and Maria of her reason; and, on the same day, the wretched mother followed the remains of one of her daughters to the grave, and accompanied the other to a mad-house! Talleyrand, however, remained unsuspected; the poor widow still received his visits with distinction, consulted him as a friend, and revered him as a benefactor. But the friendly veil of ignorance was at last withdrawn. On her fourteenth birth-day, during the carnival of 1776, her third daughter, Sophia, disappeared; and, in such a manner did Talleyrand plan the retreat of his new victim, that she was not discovered until midsummer. At length, tempted by the reward of 3000 livres, offered by the Duke of Penthievre, his female accomplice disclosed the place of her concealment, and poor Sophia was discovered in the arms of her seducer. She, too,

too, had become pregnant, and in her room was found a box of pills, which, by her confession, were intended to produce abortion. These pills were analysed, compared with the substances which were found in the corpse of the poisoned Amy, and had evidently been composed of similar ingredients! Talleyrand, also, from a combination of juvenile indiscretion and depraved vanity, had boasted of his intrigues with, and gloried in the ruin of the two elder sisters. Sophia was taken into the convent of the Ursulines, near Paris; but notwithstanding every attention which she experienced, an untimely death succeeded a premature delivery; and, in two days, her death was followed by that of her mother, from a broken heart, and the same tomb received them both.

When Count de Peregord was informed of these shocking events, he convoked a family council, for the purpose of determining on the future disposal of his nephew. Some proposed that he should be exiled to the colonies for life; but it was at length agreed, that a petition should be presented to the king for a *lettre-de-cachet.* This was obtained; and, in October, 1770, Talleyrand was seized at a gambling-house, and thrown into the Bastille, under the name of L'Abbe Boiteux. In December following, he was removed to the Castle of Vincennes, where he remained in solitary confinement for twelve months. By his consummate hypocrisy, in inflicting severe penances on himself, and in expressing a desire to enter the order of *La Trap,* the most rigid of all monastic institutions, he succeeded in convincing the chaplain of the castle, that his life was not only a life of repentance, but of edification; and, on the strength of such assurance, Talley-

 raud

rand was liberated, and sent to finish his studies with the jesuits of Thoulouse, where, in 1773, he was received as a member of the Gallican clergy.

In the year 1774, it is said that the Abbe de Peregord, as Talleyrand was then called, was a great favourite with Madame du Barry, the mistress of Louis XV. that he was a constant attendant at her *toilette* in the morning, and in her *boudoirs* in the evening. At the *petit soupées* of that lady, none but the initiated were admitted; but, when once admitted, their refinement in voluptuousness confused, or obscured, the light of reason, in the same manner that it silenced the clamours of conscience. According to *La Chronique Scandaleuse*, Talleyrand has often declared, that he never regretted any thing more than that sudden annihilation did not immediately follow these invaluable and inexpressibly delicious instants, because he would then have expired in the only paradise existing; and which is solely reserved for the voluptuous elect.

The favour of Madame Du Barry served as a letter of introduction to all other gay and fashionable, *alias* licentious companies in Paris; and Talleyrand, therefore, no longer found it necessary to stoop to intrigues with obscure mantua-makers, &c. since, according to his own modest expressions, duchesses, marchionesses, countesses, and baronesses, were dying by scores in love for him, or quarrelling with emulation to be the happy mortal who should fix their accomplished but volatile beau. "During five years," he said, that "six husbands, from jealousy on his account, had blown out their brains, and eighteen lovers had perished in duels for ladies who were his mistresses. Ten wives,

wives, deserted by him, had retired in despair to convents. Twelve unmarried ladies, from doubt of his fidelity or constancy, had either broken their hearts, or poisoned themselves in desperation. All these were persons of *haut ton*; and in their number he did not, therefore, include the hundreds of the *bourgeoisie* at the *grisets*, or of chambermaids, who, forsaken by him, sought consolation from a halter, or in the river Seine. He had besides, during the same short period, made twenty-four husbands happy fathers, and forty maids solitary and miserable mothers!"*

The number and extent of his amours are astonishing. In the year 1780, the young wife of President de M——, his daughter by a former marriage, and his sister-in-law, were all discovered to be on too familiar a footing with him; in consequence of which, the president separated from his wife, married his daughter to his secretary, and obliged his sister-in-law to take the veil.

Some time after this, a plan of vengeance was conceived against him by a certain marchioness, whom he had slighted, and who had heard of his infamous behaviour to the daughters of Madame Gauchier. After many enquiries, this lady found that their eldest brother was an adjutant in a Swiss regiment; and, by means of a confidential person, she informed him of the outrages which had been committed on his family by Talleyrand. Acting agreeably to her directions, the young man proceeded to Paris, went to Telleyrand, and, after coolly relating his complaints, demanded

* *Vide* La Vie laique et ecclesiastique de Monseigneur l'eveque d'Autun.

100,000 livres, about 4000l. for not proceeding against him at the tribunals, or petitioning to his temporal and spiritual sovereigns, the King of France and the Pope. The ecclesiastic endeavoured to exculpate himself on the score of youthful indiscretion, and offered to purchase young Gauchier's silence with five and twenty *louis d'ors*. The offer was rejected with disdain; but Talleyrand, suspecting that the soldier had some secret abettor, went to the war-office, and found means to obtain an order, enjoining him to quit Paris in five hours, and to be with his regiment within six days.

By counter-interest, however, this order was revoked; and, on the following day, Gauchier delivered a petition to the Pope's nuncio, informing him that another, to the same purport, would be presented to the king. Talleyrand was now both humbled and alarmed; particularly as he had not the pecuniary means of endeavouring to hush the affair. He sent, however, for Gauchier, who was at length persuaded to withdraw the petition from the nuncio, and to sign a promise of secresy and oblivion, on which he received a bond for the sum demanded. Two days afterwards, this young man was taken up dead from the nets of St. Cloud, having been robbed, stabbed and thrown into the Seine. The bond had been deposited in the hands of the marchioness, as a security for 12,000 livres, which she had lent young Gauchier; and, at a subsequent period, having been reconciled to Talleyrand, in one of her love fits, she destroyed it in his presence. But the priest in his turn meditated a severe revenge. The husband of the marchioness was her senior by five and twenty years; and, though he cared

cared but little about her intrigues, he detested publicity, and dreaded the ridicule resulting from it. Talleyrand was aware of this; and, by a complicated tissue of treachery, he contrived to overwhelm the victim of his confidence in disgrace. One night, favoured by darkness, and acting under his master's directions, Talleyrand's valet stole to the bed of the sleeping marchioness, and occupied the place which he had left. This was in an apartment hired by Talleyrand, in the *Fauxbourg St. Honore.* Suddenly a riot took place in the street, a mock fight ensued, and the pretended assailant, said to have wounded his antagonist, took shelter in the house, whither he was followed by the police guards and the mob. The marchioness's room door was burst open; the disgraceful discovery was made; and the lady was on the point of being dragged half-naked to prison, when her husband, *anonymously* informed of what was passing, made his appearance and prevented all farther procedure. The consequence of this was, that, on the following day, a deed of separation was signed between the marquis and his lady, wherein it was agreed that she should receive an annual pension, on condition of her travelling abroad, and not revisiting France during the life of her husband. Talleyrand, however, did not escape his share of the disgrace; for, the plot and treachery becoming notoriously public, it reached the ears of Louis XVI. and, by his Majesty's command, and, after having been reprimanded by the Pope's nuncio, in the presence of the archbishops of Paris, he was placed under the escort of two *gardes de corps*, sent to Autun, and ordered, under pain of having his episcopal

gown torn off, not to leave his diocese * without the king's permission.† The lady went to Italy, became a pensioner in a convent at Pavia, and died there, truly penitent, after a residence of eighteen weeks.

Talleyrand's exile lasted for two years, during which time he wrote a memorial against the ex-minister, Neckar's, financial arrangements, which he dedicated, and sent to M. Calonne, who, with much difficulty, procured the king's permission for him to pass a few months in the capital. The worthy bishop's *gratitude* ever kept pace with his other *virtues*, and, as soon as the latter minister's favour at court declined, he libelled him, and published a refutation of his own memorial. This refutation, though anonymous as well as the memorial, procured him an introduction to the Neckar family, whom, in their turn, he some years afterwards betrayed, calumniated, and deserted.

At the period when Louis XVI. convoked the assembly of the notables, Talleyrand devoted much of his attention to the present rightful heir to the French crown; but it was principally about the person of the late Duke of Orleans that he was daily and almost hourly seen. Such was his known character for duplicity, and for political, as well as amorous intrigue,

* From the liberal bounty of the king, Talleyrand's first clerical appointment produced an income of 20,000 livres per annum; and, when he was made bishop of Autun, his annual revenue was increased to upwards of 100,000 livres.

† Le Hamand, his valet, tool, and accomplice, signed a confession of his guilt, and was shut up in the house of correction. In September, 1792, this man was one of the assassins of the prisoners at Paris, afterwards an *aid-du-camp* to Santerre, and is now a colonel.

that

that, on the retreat and resignation of M. de Calonne, he was suspected, and with good reason, of havin been paid by the prime minister, Cardinal de Brienne, to watch the parliament, by the parliament to watch the court, and by the court to watch both the parliament and the prime minister.

Talleyrand's ambition was now rather to figure in the cabinet than in the *boudoir*; and, excepting the wife of the rich banker G——* for five years before the revolution, the Countess of F——hault was his only known mistress.† His pleasures, however, were so expensive, and his propensity for gambling was so great, that, notwithstanding his borrowing and extorting of money from every woman with whom he was connected, his finances were in the most deranged and exhausted state. Despised, and overwhelmed

* This lady died, poisoned either by herself, on discovering Talleyrand's infidelity, after having robbed her husband of 200,000 livres for a promise to serve him, or by Talleyrand to get rid of his obligation, or by the husband from revenge or jealousy.

† By this *married* lady he had a son, born some time before the revolution. The "*ingenuous young countess*," it is said, concealed from nobody that this child was called after, and baptized by, his *father*, Talleyrand. The young man, who came over to this country with his mother, in 1792, had the misfortune to be deaf; but, by the humanity of Mr. Windham, and other gentlemen, he was sent to the emigrant school, at Beaconsfield, where he was both educated and cured of his deafness. In 1799, he returned to France, and was made an *aid-du-camp* to Louis Buonaparte, in which capacity he accompanied him to Berlin in 1800. The countess left England some time after Talleyrand had been ordered to quit this country, and resided till the year 1800 at Altona. Her husband, the Count of F——hault, was guillotined in 1793. The offspring of the countess's adulterous intercourse is expected to inherit Talleyrand's immense fortune.

with

with debt, he attached himself to the Duke of Orleans and his party; a resource which was always open to political adventurers, of desperate fortunes, or of degraded characters. To this faction he was indebted for his nomination as a deputy to the States General in 1789. Among his first exertions in this capacity, may be mentioned his speech in favour of Jews, comedians, and public executioners, for whom he obtained the privilege of citizenship and equality.

On the 2d of November, 1789, agreeably to the proposal of Mirabeau, Talleyrand brought forward, and carried a motion for the sale and confiscation of all the property belonging to the French clergy; notwithstanding their liberal and patriotic offer to advance a sum, equal to 16,000,000l. for the arrangement of the finances of their country. Towards the end of November, he was appointed one of the commissioners to examine into the state of the *Caisse d'Escompte*, or discount bank, which had been established by Neckar during the American war; in January 1790, he became a member of the committee of imposts; and, in the course of the same month, he was elected President of the National Assembly. On the 14th of July, he officiated at the ceremony of the confederation; and, in his clerical character, celebrated mass, consecrated, and pronounced a benediction on the royal standard of France, and on the eighty-three banners of the departments which waved around it, before the altar of the nation. In a letter which, on the following day, he wrote to his *chere amie*, the Countess of F—hault, after ridiculing the ceremony in which he had borne so distinguished a part, particularly the administration of the national Christian oath, he says:—" I deplore

plore the progress of infidelity among the people; I am of the same opinion with Voltaire, that whether we believe in a God ourselves or not, it would be dangerous to the whole community, should the multitude think that they can, with impunity, and without fear of punishment in the next world, rob, poison, stab, hang, or behead in this." *Such* a declaration, from *such* a character, is of some importance.

Talleyrand's labours in the ecclesiastical, financial, and diplomatic committees, were extremely well rewarded. At the period when Spain was apprehensive of hostilities with England, on account of the Nootka Sound business, he received 100,000 dollars from that government for his assistance in the renewal and confirmation of treaties with France, by the national assembly.

In August, 1790, M. Talleyrand had the *honour* of being elected one of the secretaries of the Jacobin club. To him also is due the *honour* of framing and organising the secret external, as well as internal police of France. During the whole of 1790, and until September 1791, he continued a perpetual member of the Jacobin committee for propagating the Rights of Man, and superintended the secret correspondence in every part of Europe and America. At his suggestion, the issuing of *assignats* was decreed, and the confiscated estates and lands of the clergy were disposed of, and paid for in them. Talleyrand participated largely in this plunder, and, by means of *assignats*, ingeniously contrived to rid himself of his creditors. It was now his anxious wish to become the king's superintendant of finances; but neither his talents, nor the *carte blanche* which he had the audacity to offer the queen,

queen, were capable of removing the well-merited aversion, which their Majesties entertained, from him.

Not considering the ancient establishment of the clergy to be yet sufficiently degraded, Talleyrand proposed a decree, by which all members of the church should be compelled to swear adherence and submission to the *civil* constitution of the clergy, on pain of forfeiting their livings, and denouncing public and criminal prosecutions against those who, after refusing the oaths, should retain their benefices, or exercise their functions. By this infamous decree, which, notwithstanding the Pope's public disapprobation, and the king's reluctant consent, was enforced on the 4th of January, 1791, all the bishops, with the exception of Talleyrand and two others, with many thousands of parish priests and curates, were suddenly displaced, and turned forth to beggary and want.

Bought over by the court party, Mirabeau about this time deserted his former line of conduct, and his friend Talleyrand is thought to have shared with him the wages which he received for his desertion. However, in April, 1791, after an illness of two days, occasioned by poison, Mirabeau terminated his infamous career. His last words to Talleyrand, in whose arms he expired, were:—"My friend! I am hastening fast to the place *where I was before I was born*, and monarchy departs with me. The factious will tear themselves to pieces for its remains—you have too much sense not to obtain your share." Talleyrand has, by some, been suspected as the originator, though not as the perpetrator of his friend's death. At all events, the letter which he wrote to the Countess of F. on that occasion, evinces

evinces a most wanton levity, and is deeply disgusting for the impious sentiments which it proclaims. Among other passages which it contains, is the following:— "You tenderly reproach me for not taking sufficient care of my own health; but could I, from any consideration of my own safety, leave a dying friend, who, though a *great character*, certainly, *entre nous*, was a still *greater rascal*, who, from *indiscretion*, or *wickedness*, or even from *malice at my surviving him*, might have discovered secrets which ought, for our *mutual* honour, to have perished with him. Merely for the humour of ridiculing religion in exposing a *bishop*, he was capable of playing me such a trick. Besides, my attention to him, and his confidence in me, will give me a good share in his *immortality!*" Such are the *great* men, the "*pantheonised*" heroes, of the French revolution; and *sic transit* GLORIA MUNDI!!

The decree of the 4th of January was followed by an admonition from the pope, against the civil constitution of the clergy, in which his holiness denounced the Bishop of Autun, as an impious wretch, who had imposed his sacrilegious hands on intending clergymen, and suspended him from all his episcopal functions, declaring him excommunicated, unless he recanted his errors within forty days. Talleyrand, in revenge, caused the sovereign pontiff's effigy to be burnt, and, shortly after, caused the church plate to be melted and coined into money.

On the death of Mirabeau, Talleyrand united himself more closely with La Fayette, the two brothers La Methe, and other partisans of the constituent faction, who, in the plenitude of their treachery, wished to tyrannize over France in the king's name. Talley-

rand

rand was not yet admitted to the council-chamber of his sovereign; but, by his intrigues, the La Methes were unfortunately exalted to that honour; and, under his direction, they succeeded in persuading the king to dismiss the ecclesiastics from about his person, to hear mass performed by an apostate priest, and to send a letter of instruction to his ministers at foreign courts, declaring his entire approbation of the revolution.

After the arrest of their Majesties at Varennes, Talleyrand was offered by the assembly to be appointed one of the deputies, who were to be entrusted with the *honourable* mission of escorting the state prisoners to the capital; but, for *private* reasons, he declined the *flattering* proposal. He was now in the pay of the court. The subsequent declarations of their Majesties, in favour of the constitution, were from his pen, and, for their composition, he received the sum of 60,000 livres. He also received an equal sum for causing these declarations to be approved by the then leaders of the constitutional party, and for persuading them to accompany their approbation by a threat, for averting the design of bringing the king and queen to trial. For the pretendedly-favourable decree, respecting the king's journey to Varennes, his Majesty also signed notes to Talleyrand and others to the amount of 125,000l. sterling, to be paid by his treasurer of the civil list, within four months after his restoration to authority. Talleyrand had formerly been anxious to shine at the head of the financial department; but, aware of its deranged state at this critical period, he resigned his wishes on the subject.

The new constitution was at length completed, and Talleyrand

Talleyrand was one of the deputation of sixty-two members, appointed by the assembly to wait upon his Majesty for his acceptance thereof. The constitution was accepted, and, by the advice of Talleyrand, a circular letter from the king informed the respective sovereigns and states of Europe of the event. The penetration of Talleyrand, however, discovered that the monarchy must ultimately fall; and, as he had already deserted his God and his king for the Orleans faction, which in its turn he had also quitted, he felt no difficulty in again betraying the king, by going over to the republicans, from whom he had received a variety of overtures. But this design was not suddenly to be executed. An insatiable thirst for money influenced all his actions; and he continued secretly to direct the king's determinations, and to betray the confidence of his prince to the Orleans and republican factions. Talleyrand was, by most parties in France, considered to be a fit person for the office of a priviledged conspirator in England; and, as certain constitutional regulations prevented him, *personally*, from accepting a diplomatic appointment, he at length succeeded in getting Chauvelin, a creature of his, but a man of no experience, to be nominated as ambassador to the king of Great Britain. Chauvelin's instructions were, not to do any thing without consulting Talleyrand, and always to act in conformity with his advice. This *par nobile fratrum* received their commission on the 1st of May, 1792, and each of them it appears was put in possession of his *secret* instructions from different parties. With respect to this country, the secret instructions from his Majesty to Talleyrand, though written by the latter, were perfectly fair and honourable.

honourable. He had letters of credit to the amount of 16,000, to defray the expences incurred by the preceding embassy, and the strictest economy was enjoined. From the Duke of Orleans he obtained credit for 25,000l. to be expended according to his own discretion, with directions to cultivate a good understanding with the members of the Opposition and of the Whig Club, and to insinuate to them the probability of the duke being declared a regent, or even of being proclaimed a constitutional king of the French, in consequence of the incapacity or perfidy of Louis XVI. By the republican party, at the head of which was Petion, Talleyrand was provided with credit to the amount of 125,000l. on the treasurer of the committee of insurrection, a member of the financial committee of the national assembly. This money was to be disposed of in disseminating jacobinical principles in England, on a most extensive and complicated scale.

Talleyrand's reception in this country, however, was widely different from what he had been led to expect; for, excepting among a few men of similar principles to his own, he was treated with deserved contempt by all the English nobility and gentry; and, as for the English *patriots*, he found them to be of the same complexion with those of France—men of desperate fortunes and depraved characters. "In all countries," says he, "disappointed ambition, merciless bailiffs, empty purses, or aching stomachs, are terrible incitements to declaim against courts, to speak of reform, or to plot revolutions." Indeed, to use a *ci-devant* fashionable phrase, he was completely "*hoaxed*" by the *English*, *Scotch*, and *Irish* patriots. But, though his

his political views were disappointed, his avarice found the means of gratification; and, according to the lowest estimate, from May to December, 1792, he realised 50,000l. by speculating in the public funds.

Talleyrand had agreed to the necessity of murdering the king; but he strenuously recommended, that the crime should be perpetrated by the sudden stab of an individual assassin, and not by the judicial sentence of a national tribunal. To this opinion he gained over the English *patriots*, who went over to Paris; they, in their turns, made converts of Petion, Brissot, and other republican leaders; and it was at length determined, to cause a revolt at Paris, to attack the Thuilleries, and, in the confusion, to murder the king and the royal family, and to declare France a republic.—This projected revolt took place on the 20th of June, (1792); but the firmness of the king, and the want of courage in Santerre, rendered the plot abortive. So confident had Talleyrand been in his expectations of success, that, in his own words, *for decency's sake, he had bespoken a mourning dress, for what he supposed the departed French monarchy*. In proportion as his expectations had been sanguine, his disappointment was bitter.

On the succeeding 7th of July, Talleyrand left London for Paris, where he arrived on the 11th, for the purpose of being present at the second confederation. For the credit of the country, it does not appear that the ladies of London were so *complaisant* to Talleyrand as those of France; for, with the exception of a woman, whom he calls Lady A———. the discarded *chere amie* of a Lord A———, and of his present "*wife*," Madame Grand, who, by the bye, is

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not an English woman, we hear nothing of any love-bewildered damsels who were smitten either with his *personal*, or *mental* charms. Talleyrand hastened back to England, and landed at Dover on the 21st of July. In the autumn of the year, during a period of profound peace, this treacherous diplomatist conceived and digested a plan for the invasion of England; and, had it not been for differences of opinion in Paris, the attempt would unquestionably have been made. To facilitate his plans for the destruction of this country, against which he possessed, and still possesses, a most deadly enmity, in the month of November he procured his name to be placed on the list of proscribed emigrants; and, in January following, when the murder of Louis XVI. was made public in London, Talleyrand, with all other *loyal* men, went into mourning, and pretended to experience the deepest affliction. So confident was he of ultimate success, in his schemes for producing a revolution in England, that, when Chauvelin was ordered to quit the kingdom, he said, in the hearing of Chauvelin's secretary, Rheinhrd, and of two other persons,—"The *king* of England has ordered you away; but depend upon it, my friend, the English *republic* will soon call you back, and revenge you." Talleyrand continued to correspond with Le Brun, informing him of the success of his intrigues and plots in this country, until that minister shared the disgrace of the other members of the Brissotine faction. His credit on several foreign houses was then withdrawn, and the committee of public safety considered him in no other light than as an emigrant. He continued in England till 1794, when, his perfidy having become notorious, he was ordered out of the country.

country. Basely deserting the Countess of F. whose property had been all swallowed up in the revolution, and who still had his son to support, he sailed for America, the only country in which it was likely that his regicide principles would not meet with their deserts. He there found several of his former associates, whose crimes had compelled them to cross the Atlantic; but, fortunately for the citizens of America, their presidents at that period were no friends to French innovation; and, though Talleyrand made all possible use of La Fayette's name and interest, his intrigues were but of slight avail. He strenuously opposed the progress of the treaty which was then negociating between Great Britain and America; but unable to prevent its completion, he threatened, that, whenever he should have any influence in the councils of France, the Americans should repent of their imprudence and obstinacy. This threat he some years afterwards took care to have carried into effect, by the seizure of American vessels and property to an immense amount.

After the death of Robespierre, the surviving members of the constitutional and Orleans factions, who mostly resided in or near Hamburgh, sent an invitation to Talleyrand to join them in their labours for changing the French republic into a constitutional monarchy. Talleyrand disliked the Americans, both men and women, almost as much as he did the English; he therefore the more readily accepted the invitation. He landed on the banks of the Elbe in July, 1795, assisted in the formation of a revolutionary committee, appeared sincerely to enter into the views of his associates, and was intrusted by them to corres-

pond with Barras, and other leading members of the national convention. But he acted by them as he had done by his former associates, and deserted them the instant that the connection was no longer profitable to his purse, or alluring to his ambition.

Early in September, he succeeded in his attempt to have his name struck off from the list of emigrants.

At Altona, Talleyrand met with his *ci-devant chère amie*, the Countess of F.; but she received him as he merited, with sovereign contempt. On his enquiry after *their* son, she answered, in the presence of several persons, " Sir, you never had a wife! and a mistress becoming a mother by you, in loving her child must abhor his father. When once really known, you can inspire no other sentiments than those of abhorrence." With his usual presence of mind, Talleyrand turning to the company, said :—" My friends, do not be alarmed; this is only a severe fit of jealousy, and these fits, you know, are neither killing to women, nor disagreeable to men."

Among the persons to whom Tallyrand had been introduced since his arrival in Germany, was the Baroness de S——, the young and beautiful niece of the Prince de H——, who had sent her, in the beginning of the revolution, to be educated at France, under the inspection of Madame de Genlis. On the part of this lady's husband, the marriage had been concluded from ambitious motives; and, caring but little about women, he left her to follow her own inclinations, presenting her, on the day after their wedding, with a Prussian sub-lieutenant of her own age as a *play-fellow*. The Baroness, very *naturally*, perhaps, became the victim of seduction. Talleyrand, however,

ever notwithstanding the apparent reciprocality of passion between the young people, contrived to alienate the affections of the lady; but, having other game in view, he, as usual, affected jealousy and deserted her. Strange as it may seem, the passion of the baroness was violent in the extreme; and such was the effect which his desertion produced, that she terminated her existence. She was found weltering in her blood, having stabbed herself through the heart with an American pen-knife, that had been presented to her by Talleyrand. On her table were found a sealed letter to her husband, and the following unfolded note to Talleyrand:———" I have burnt all your letters. They would neither do honour to my memory, nor to your heart. God forgive you! you are my assassin! I pardon you." On the table also lay Rousseau's *Heloise* and *The Sorrows of Werter*. The former of these works was open, with the following words under-lined:—" By making existence insupportable, God commands us to put an end to it. In putting an end to existence, we therefore only obey the command of the Divinity."

The baroness had bequeathed her jewels, with a considerable sum of money, to the young lieutenant; and, on the evening of her death, according to her will, her remains were, without pomp, consumed upon a funeral pile which had been erected in the park, opposite to the windows of the library, from which she, the first time, beheld the monster who had destroyed her. The letter to her husband contained the following inscription, to be engraven on an urn;—" The ashes of Cordelia de S. born Princess de H—— bequeathed to Citizen Charles Maurice Talleyrand.——

Memento

Memento mori!"—This urn was presented to Talleyrand, at Paris, in December 1796; and on the Christmas-day of that year, he lost it, ashes and all, to Chevalier Fenelon at pharo.

From illness, the young Prussian had not been able to leave his bed for three weeks; yet, when the first alarm of Cordelia's death was given, he rushed to the fatal apartment, and pressed her bleeding remains to his bosom. The exertion and the dreadful sight which he beheld, overcame him; he fainted away, and was carried senseless back to his chamber. From the spiritual consolation which he received, however, it is probable that he would have survived his loss, had he not, in the evening, beheld the smoak arising from the funeral pile, and been informed, that it proceeded from the remains of Cordelia, and that she had bequeathed her ashes to Talleyrand. The young man was imprudently left alone; and, on the following morning, he was found lying on his bed, with the portrait of Cordelia in one hand, and the knife with which she had stabbed herself in the other, having with it pierced his own heart. He was dressed in the same night-gown which, in the morning, had been stained with his mistress's blood; round his neck was a collar of her hair; on his left arm was a bracelet of the same; and on his fingers were three rings with her hair set in diamonds. Between fifty and sixty of her letters were spread about him on the bed, and that in which she first avowed her love for him had been placed inside his shirt, near his bosom; but from the blood with which it was stained, a great part of its contents was obliterated. On his writing desk lay two open letters, the one addressed to the Baron, and the other

to

to Talleyrand. In the former, he prayed that his body might be permitted to be buried in the park, upon the spot where that of Cordelia had been reduced to ashes, without being stripped of its present dress or ornaments. He desired to be shut up in his coffin, surrounded by all the letters of his first and only mistress; and every thing which she had left him in her will he bequeathed to her daughter. His letter to Talleyrand was long, and its language, though somewhat confused, was strong and energetic. In its concluding paragraph, he says:—"God forgive me! For hours this morning I have been meditating, to dispatch you first, and then myself; but, trusting to the justice of Divine Providence, I left this deed to the common executioner, who, sooner or later, must avenge insulted nature, and violated humanity. May the shades of Cordelia, and myself, as ever-relentless furies, pursue and torment your guilty conscience upon earth, that you may anticipate here what you have to endure hereafter. My wrath descends with me to the tomb. I expire without forgiving you!"

The intelligence of these events was conveyed to Talleyrand, accompanied by such threats as induced him to depart for Berlin at a few hours notice. His journey to that capital had also some political motives; and, during the three months which he passed there, though he was only recognised by the name of Citizen Maurice, he contrived to acquire the friendship of Count Haugwitz, and to penetrate into the secrets of the Prussian cabinet. He succeeded in obtaining an organized neutrality on the part of Prussia; made a promise of procuring for the present king, at that time Prince

Prince Royal, the election of a king of the Romans; and carried with him to Paris a secret treaty, signed with the Prussian *patriots*, in the name of the French Directory, agreeing to establish upon the ruins of monarchy, a Prusian Republic, one and indivisible.

Shortly after his return to France, he was elected, first a member, and afterwards one of the secretaries to the national institute; to which he presented an able tract, under the title of *Des Travaux de la Classe des Sciences Morales et Politiques*, strongly recommending the continuance of a republican government, with an elective executive, as well as legislative power.

It was in the house occupied by Madame de Genlis and general Valence, during the residence of Talleyrand in the vicinity of Hamburgh, that the ex-bishop had several conferences with certain Irish and English traitors, and that the plan was laid for general Hoche's expedition to Botany Bay, which took place in December 1796.

For some time after his return to Paris, he attached himself to no party, but lived in a state of retirement. When it became publickly known that lord Malmsbury was commissioned to negociate a peace in France, Talleyrand presented a memorial to the Directory, the substance of which, was afterwards copied into *Le Redacteur*, the then official print. By this memorial, the subjects of which were the negociation, and the negociator, Talleyrand evinced his inveterate hatred of England and Englishmen; and, could Reubel have devised any method to get rid of his friend La Croix, the minister of the Foreign Department, Talleyrand would have been nominated as his succes-

sor.

sor. In June 1797,* however, when Lord Malmsbury made a second attempt at negociation, Talleyrand composed an artful and eloquent memorial on the relative situation of Great Britain and France, which, as a friend, he gave to La Croix to read over, and to improve with his observations. As he expected, La Croix immediately made use of it, and laid it before the Directory in his own name. Two days previous to this, Talleyrand presented to Reubel another memorial, exposing the fallacy of such arguments as were adduced in the one presented by La Croix, and pointing out the danger to France in negociating on such principles as the latter recommended. In consequence of this exposure, and of the palpable ignorance which La Croix had betrayed in the former negociation, Reubel was necessitated to give up his *protegé*; and, supported by Barras, Carnot, and Barthelemy, Talleyrand was installed in his place.

Knowing the intentions of the Directory to continue the unpopular war with England, and apprehensive that the odium of the unsuccessful conclusion of the negociation would be cast upon him, Talleyrand procured the place of negociation to be changed, and Lisle to be substituted for Paris. As a minister, he could not absent himself from the residence of the Directory; consequently, Tourneur, formerly of the Di-

* In the spring of this year Talleyrand presented a petition to the Directory, in the name of Madame Grand, proving herself to have been born a Danish subject, though married to an Englishman. This petition was referred to the minister of police, who gave permission for her to return to France, where she arrived with a Danish passport, and resided under the protection of the Danish Minister, till she was married to her present husband.

rectory,

rectory, and Preville, the minister of Marine, were nominated negociators on the part of France, and Marat, a creature of Talleyrand, was appointed secretary.—The result of the negociation is too well known to require a detail in this place. The Parisians said, that, during the whole summer of 1797, Talleyrand had many severe battles to fight, with the English guineas on one side, and with the Prussian Frederic d'ors, Dutch ducats, and Spanish dollars, on the other.—Whether the English guineas got the better of their adversaries, or whether the offers of England were such as Talleyrand thought sufficiently humiliating to this country, certain it is, that on the 19th of August, he proposed to the Directory to accept them, and it was announced, in several of the French journals, that peace was actually signed. When the ex-bishop made this proposition to the Directory at its public sitting, in the presence of the five directors, and of La Garde, their secretary, Reubel, after reading over Talleyrand's memorial to himself, threw it in his face, saying—"*Sacre Pretre! ou tes un imbecile ou un coquin gagné parler Anglais*—Call upon me after our sitting is over, and I will prove to you that you are either one or the other." Talleyrand thought proper to submit; and on the following day, by way of atonement, made some new demands upon England, on the part of the Directory. By this circumstance, however, he was very near losing his place, and it required all his artifice to avoid the vengeance of the directorial trio, Reubel, La Reveilliere, and Barras; particularly when it was known that Barthelemy had read and approved of Talleyrand's memorial, before it was presented to the Directory; and that he had told several

members of the two councils, that the triumvirate had their own private reasons for not making a peace with England on any terms whatever; and had not Talleyrand been previously in the confidence of Barras, with respect to the revolution of the 18th Fructidor, even his profound skill in the art of intrigue would not have saved him. Through the persuasion of Barras, Reubel accepted an apology, in which Talleyrand accused his friend Marat of having misled him. Marat was consequently given up to the vengeance of the Directory; and no sooner did the revolution of the 4th of September following, take place, than Marat, La Tourneur, and Preville, were recalled. Had it not been for the intercession of one of the mistresses of Barras, Marat would assuredly have been transported to Cayenne.

Lord Malmsbury left Lisle in September; and, in a month from that period, Buonaparte forced upon Austria the peace of Campo Formio, the articles of which were drawn up by Talleyrand.

After many humiliations, and great pecuniary sacrifices, on the part of Portugal, a peace was signed between that power and France; but soon, to the astonishment of all Europe, the Portuguese ambassador and negociator was sent as a prisoner to the Temple, by the express order of Talleyrand. This arrestation, so contrary to the laws of nations, took place in consequence of a discovery having been made by the then Minister of Police, Sottin, that Talleyrand had secretly received 1,000,000 of livres, besides 2,000,000 which he had shared with the directors, for granting a peace to Portugal. All this Talleyrand denied, and, in his turn, accused the ambassador of having received

 bribes

bribes from England, to make such representations to his court as induced it to refuse to ratify the treaty made with France. It was only by sacrificing more money, that this ambassador obtained his liberty, and was not detained a prisoner till the general peace, as Talleyrand and the Directory had intended.

A government that could thus break through all the rights of nations, could not be expected to regard the rights of private treaties. In consequence of a memorial from Talleyrand, the Directory, by a decree of the 2d of December, 1797, declared all ships, of any nation whatever, on board of which should be found any species of English goods, lawful prizes to the republic. Denmark, Sweden, and Prussia, made humble remonstrances, but the French privateers captured their ships, the French tribunals condemned them, and Talleyrand and the Directory shared the prize-money. In a few months, upwards of eight hundred neutral vessels were condemned; and, by this species of piracy, in the course of half a year, Reubel is reported to have gained 250,000*l.*; Barras, 164,000*l.*; La Reveillierre, 100,000*l.*; Merlin, 200,000*l.*; Neufchateau, 50,000*l.*; Talleyrand, 210,000*l.*; and Madame Buonaparte, to whom her husband had given 12,500*l.* to engage in privateering, 75,000*l.* None, however, of the aggrieved nations armed against France, but contented themselves with timid representations, made through the medium of their respective ambassadors at Paris.

It is deserving of notice, that most of the judges of the French prize tribunals were owners of the privateers which had been fitted out on this occasion, and of course were judges in their own cause. In Spain,

 Italy,

Italy, and other countries under the French yoke, the French consuls fitted out the privateers, and were the only judges in such prize causes as came under their cognisance. In one instance, a Danish ship was condemned, because an English carpet, for the cabin floor, was rolled up in the cabin. Another, because one of the sailors had an English pair of boots on board. A Swedish ship, coming direct from Sweden, was condemned, because a barrel of Swedish strong beer, which the French said was English porter, was found on board. In these, and many other similar cases, the insolence and injustice of the French were surpassed by nothing but the base meanness of the neutral powers, who suffered and so tamely submitted.

No sooner was Talleyrand in place and power, than, in return for the hospitable protection which he had received in America, at a time when he was every where proscribed in Europe, fresh orders were issued to capture all American ships, without any declaration of war being previously made, and contrary to existing treaties between France and America. The late treaty between England and America was the alleged cause for those orders; but the real cause was vengeance and plunder. Upwards of four hundred American ships were captured in the West-Indies, and in different parts of Europe, before America had time to send ambassadors to negociate with France on the subject.

When the plenipotentiaries reached Paris, Talleyrand, after much political chicanery, persuaded the Directory to receive them in France as privileged characters, but not as ambassadors, or negociators; a dis-

tinction as novel as it was unjust, in transactions between independent nations.

It was also extremely humiliating to the Americans, who, to gain his favour, had selected citizens of known impartiality in politics, one of whom had been his intimate friend when at Philadelphia. Talleyrand, however, made the Directory, in imputing this mode of conduct to abject fear, assume a proportionate haughtiness, and refuse them an audience; but, through inferior agents, and subaltern intriguers, it was insinuated, that the donation of about 60,000*l.* to be divided between Talleyrand and some of the directors, would be a necessary preliminary to negociation. It was also proposed, that, as the director, Merlin, had been paid for the letters of *marque*, issued to privateers, those licenses could not be recalled, but the American government might purchase the good-will of France by a loan of 3,500,000l. in part to be shared between the Directory and their minister. In making such proposals, Talleyrand had egregiously mistaken the character of the Americans, in whose minds no passion is stronger than the love of money. This attempt at extortion immediately drove the plenipotentiaries back to their own shores, where they exposed to the world the detestable system which had been practised, with a design to plunder and dupe a friendly and neutral nation. The consequence was, that the Americans armed, and prepared to make reprisals.

Two years afterwards, when Buonaparte had usurped the sovereign power in France, and Talleyrand, by swindling Louisiana from Spain, found himself possessed of the means of avenging himself upon America,

a peace

a peace was concluded with the United States, which no declaration of war had preceded. America restored the French ships which it had captured from France; but the latter power retained the whole of the property that had been extorted from the former. By this treaty, Talleyrand's vengeance against America was rather augmented than diminished, because he received none of the expected *argent;* and, although he was supported by all the American jacobins, he failed in his attempts to persuade the government of that country to join the armed neutrality.

When the directory was amusing itself, and the jacobins of Europe, with an exposure of the meanness of the negociating princes at Rastadt, and imprudently proclaiming, that it offered to the world the olive-branch of peace, Talleyrand persuaded it to attack Switzerland, a country then unplundered by France. During the year 1798, upwards of 2,000,000*l.* sterling, were carried away from Switzerland, and divided between Talleyrand, the directory, &c. exclusively of the plunder of the subaltern commissaries, officers, and soldiers, who called the campaign of 1798, in this ill-fated country, *une campagne d'or.*

The Egyptian expedition of Buonaparte, is now known to have been suggested by Talleyrand. The victories of Buonaparte having been crowned by a peace with the continental powers, he was more beloved by France than any other general, and therefore more dreaded by the Directory. Not daring to disgrace, destroy, or transport him, Talleyrand was desired to find out some employment for him, any where but in France. An invasion of England was the favorite

vorite wish, both of the government and of the armies. Buonaparte was therefore declared commander-in-chief of the Army of England, and was mean enough to lend his name as a guarantee for a loan upon England, notwithstanding he well knew that it would no more be paid by this country than by France. That the Directory really intended to invade England, there is little doubt; but, on consulting their principal naval officers, they were induced to abandon the attempt. Talleyrand then brought forward the old project of conquering Egypt; but, previously to its being laid before the Directory, it received the approbation of Buonaparte, who, trusting to his former fortune, would have undertaken even wilder schemes than this. Buonaparte accordingly set out upon the expedition. By this measure, Talleyrand gained two important points: he flattered the unbounded ambition of Buonaparte, and so obtained his friendship; and, by sending away the object of the Directory's dread and jealousy, he conferred an obligation on the directors, and thus insured his own continuance in place.

The drudgery of office, however, did not occupy the whole of Talleyrand's time. Four days of each decade, he received company of both sexes, or accepted invitations from parties abroad. On his visits to Madame Grand, at Montmorency, the choicest dishes were served, the finest wines were drank, and amusements of various kinds took place. Plays and farces were represented by comedians from the capital, or by amateurs of the company. A bank of *rouge et noir*, another of *pharo*, and a third of *la roulet*, or *birribi*, lightened the pockets of those who found no pleasure

pleasure in more rational and less expensive pleasures. It was calculated, that the gambling banks at Montmorency more than paid the expences of the house and table. A person who had not the *politeness* to lose from twenty to fifty *louis d'ors*, was seldom invited a second time. The bankers, who were ruined emigrants, farmed these banks in the year 1800, at the rate of 1200 *louis d'ors* per month, and gained double that sum. Talleyrand boasted to every body of this act of *generosity*. One of these emigrants was a relative of his, plundered by the revolution of 2500*l*. *per annum*. At these parties, Madame Buonaparte's passion for gambling brought her into many difficulties, during her husband's wanderings in the deserts of Africa. She borrowed money as long as she had any credit, which, owing to the disasters in Egypt, was but a short time. She then pawned all her diamonds, plundered by Buonaparte in Italy, to the amount of 50,000*l*. sterling. Money was then scarce in France, and she got only 6000*l*. upon them. What was her surprise, when her husband had usurped the consulate, to receive them back, as a *present*, from Talleyrand, who had previously refused her the loan of a single *Louis d'or!* This crafty intriguer had, by his agents, advanced the money, with an intention to keep those diamonds so cheaply acquired, should Buonaparte perish, or to evince his *disinterested* gallantry in restoring them, should the Corsican once rule France.

The events which attended the dissolution of the congress at Rastadt relate too immediately to Talleyrand to be passed unnoticed. The French negociators, at that place, it is known were, Jean de Bry, now commander

mander of Buonaparte's legion of honor; Bonnier, and Roberjot. On leaving Rastadt, the two last were assassinated by fifty agents of Talleyrand's secret police, disguised as Austrian hussars, that the odium of the deed might be thrown upon the cabinet of Vienna, and that the extinguished enthusiasm of the French armies might be revived. This tragedy, in which the third plenipotentiary, Jean de Bry, was one of the principal actors, at first excited surprise and indignation; but, even in France, the Directory and their ministers were soon accused of having plotted a murder, the perpetration of which, on the part of Austria, could by no means have been serviceable to that power. Talleyrand and the Directory had long continued to deceive the French nation, by promises of a speedy peace, and by hypocritical wishes for its conclusion. When they renewed the war, without a cause, how were they to persuade France that the renewal of hostilities was owing to Austria?--Bonnier and Roberjot, who were both dissatisfied with the breaking up of the congress, would have divulged the cause of it, had they been suffered to survive. They would have said:---"Here are your instructions, your designs, your object, and the conduct which you prescribed to us, all signed by Talleyrand." Such embarrassing evidence would have been incontrovertible; and the more dangerous, as, in order to escape public censure, it would have been the interest of the negociators to divulge the truth. The war having begun unsuccessfully, they would have been eager to shew that it was not the consequence of their counsels.

Notwithstanding this murder, and all the artifice of its

its projectors, the subsequent success of the allied powers revived a spirit of faction in the republic: a change took place in the Directory; some of its members were impeached by the council of five hundred; and Talleyrand, denounced and pursued by several accusers, gave in his resignation. He, previously however, influenced the appointment of his successor, Rheinhard, a German by birth, a man of upright principles, but of a weak and timid character.

At no preceding period had the situation of the French republic been more extraordinary or critical than at this moment; when, having treacherously deserted his army in Africa, Buonaparte, after escaping the fire, the sword, the vengeance of the Turks and Arabs, the vigilance of the British cruizers, and the dangers of the waves, arrived in Europe. He was hailed by all parties as a deliverer, courted by all factions as a valuable acquisition, and sought for by all conspirators as their chief.

In the revolution which followed, Talleyrand procured himself to be placed on the list of candidates for the office of Second Consul; but Buonaparte, overruling this wish, reinstated him as minister for the management of the police.

In one of the first councils of state, after Buonaparte's usurpation of the consulate, Talleyrand submitted proposals for a general pacification; in consequence of which, the king of England, with the emperor of Germany and Russia, were insulted by the receipt of letters from the Corsican's *own hand.* It was not, however, until the spring of 1802, that the treaty between this country and France was signed at Amiens.

Amiens. The intrigues of Talleyrand, against England, subsequently to that period, are tolerably well known. It is certain, however, that he did not expect the *rupture* of the treaty of Amiens; and it has been asserted that, either the dupe of his own opinion of his ascendancy over Buonaparte, or of his idea of the weakness of the British government, he was so certain of preventing the renewal of hostilities, even after Lord Whitworth had left Paris, that he sent couriers to two respectable houses in London, to three at Amsterdam, and to two at Hamburgh, to speculate in his name in the different funds, as all differences between England and France would be settled without resorting to arms. It has also been stated, that by the miscarriage of this speculation, he lost about 370,000*l.* sterling; a sum which he, within six months afterwards extorted from the courts of Madrid and Lisbon, for signing with them a temporary neutrality. From 1797, to 1802, the gross amount of the sums which Talleyrand accumulated by different negociations, intrigues, indemnities, loans, jobbings, treaties, armistices, conventions, &c. &c. was nearly 4,000,000l.

The unprecedented detention of British travellers in France, as prisoners of war, was another scheme of Talleyrand to obtain money. By his spies in England he acquired information of the property which all detained persons possessed, and of the amount which it was conjectured that friends and relations would advance for the release of those who had no personal property. In September 1803, his agents had made out a list of names, and of the sums required to permit these British travellers to return to their

their country. However, before this list could be communicated to them, Fouché had discovered his rival's attempt to intrude upon the concerns and profits of the ministry of police; and advised the grand judge, not to suffer such an encroachment, but, as the British prisoners were under his care, to take advantage himself of their desire of liberty. Overtures were accordingly made to some of the most wealthy, who readily consented to pecuniary sacrifices, rather than to the continuance of a disagreeable imprisonment. They had already written over to England for remittances, when Talleyrand's agents presented themselves with their proposals, which were more exorbitant than those of the grand judge, and were therefore declined. By their cunning, or by the indiscretion of the prisoners, the real cause of the refusal was soon developed. Enraged at his disappointment, Talleyrand informed Buonaparte, that intriguers from Paris were busy to procure the liberation of those British subjects whom he had so *justly* detained; and that to prevent them from succeeding, it would perhaps be prudent, if not absolutely necessary, to confine all English prisoners at some greater distance from the capital than Fontainbleau. The grand judge was immediately sent for; and, after receiving a severe reprimand, was ordered to remove all the English prisoners to Valenciennes and Verdun. Fouché had been removed from the management of the police, and the grand judge, knowing that he again wished for his old employment, supposed that he had taken advantage of the false step into which he had led him, to disgrace him with Buonaparte, and to succeed him.

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From that time, these two revolutionary statesmen have been irreconcileable enemies. Though Talleyrand failed in his project for pillaging the captive English, he dexterously succeeded in embroiling two of his rivals.

Talleyrand's excursion with Buonaparte along the banks of the Rhine, and his residence at Aix-la-chapelle and Mentz, during the summer and autumn of 1804, were highly productive. By way of loans, douceurs, &c. he obtained in the course of six weeks 82,000l. in cash, and half as much more in diamonds. His expenditure is enormously great, yet much beneath half the interest arising from his capital, which, deposited under several names, in the French, and in different foreign funds, is daily increasing.

Talleyrand and Fouché were long irreconcileable, but they are now understood to be on friendly terms. This reconciliation is reported to have been effected by Madame Buonaparte, in gratitude for the sum of 1,200,000 livres, lent to her by Talleyrand some few days before the coronation, she having recently lost greater sums in gambling than she dared to acknowledge to her husband. These two ministers have since entered into an offensive and defensive treaty against all the other ministers, and are now supposed to govern and plunder France and Europe under the name and authority of Buonaparte.

The fabricated correspondence, the odium of which he endeavoured to throw on Mr. Drake, one of the English ministers on the continent, is known to have originated with Talleyrand, and his infamous agent, Mehée de la Touche. But this is not the only fabricated

cated correspondence in which these *respectable* characters have been concerned. The forgeries of Talleyrand, and his secret agents, are innumerable. Nor is this to be wondered at, when we are informed that they are in possession of *fac similes* of the hand-writing of all the sovereigns and principal characters in Europe, with their respective seals of office, &c. and that various members of the secret police are employed solely for the purposes of imitating, fabricating, and forging.

In the recent negociations on the continent, Talleyrand has borne a very active part: the result of his labours, or the schemes which he suggested, are not, however, as yet known; but we much fear that the ill-fated Emperor of Austria, and, indeed, the whole of Europe, will have fresh cause for wishing, that he had long since *ceased to exist*.

The atrocities of Talleyrand are certainly inferior to none but those of Buonaparte: his talents are unquestionably far superior. It is likely, however, that France will soon be delivered of one of her great criminals, and England of one of her most inveterate foes. By debauchery, intemperance, and gluttony, Talleyrand's constitution is entirely broken, and his health destroyed. Neither yearly journies to the coast for bathing in the sea, nor yearly visits to the mineral springs at Aix-la-Chapelle, and Bareuge; neither the prescriptions of the faculty, nor the nostrums of quacks, can long prevent a dissolution, which continual excesses must hasten. He must shortly sink to the grave, unpitied and detested; no tear of affection or regret will consecrate his memory; the annals of infamy alone will record his name.

The very existence of such men as Talleyrand and Buonaparte, proves---if proof were requisite---the existence also of hell, of a place of bitter and soul-agonizing torment; for it is impossible that any punishment, capable of being inflicted on them in this world, can offer an atonement to heaven, or to the suffering universe, for their black and multitudinous offences, against the laws of God and man.

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THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ADMIRAL LORD GARDNER.

THE wooden walls of Old England are such proud bulwarks of her safety and her glory, that, to the public at large, nothing can be more interesting than an account of their brave supporters. No apology, therefore, is necessary, for introducing the following brief sketch of the Right Hon. Lord Gardner, one of the few surviving pupils of the school of Hawke, Boscawen, and Anson.

His lordship, who was born at Uttoxeter, in Staffordshire, on the 12th of April, 1742, is the son of the late William Gardner, Esq. formerly a lieutenant-colonel in the 11th regiment of dragoons, in which he served with distinguished honour. His mother was Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Dr. Valentine Farrington, of Preston, in Lancashire.

At the early age of fifteen, our hero commenced his nautical services on board his majesty's ship the Medway, commanded by Captain Peter Denis, which ship, under Lord Anson's orders, conveyed his late majesty to Helvoetsluys. It would be impertinent to dwell on the actions in which he had the fortune to be engaged in the earlier periods of his progress; but it may not be amiss to state, that, in 1757, when the Medway, in company with the Eagle took the French ship, Duc d'Aqui-

d'Aquitaine, he was on board of the former ship; and that, in May, 1758, he was on board the Dorsetshire, (commanded by his first captain, Denis) when she took the Raisonable, another French ship of war. He was also on board of the Dorsetshire, at the close of the following year, in the general engagement off Belle-isle, between the fleets of Sir Edward Hawke and the Marshal Conflans. Thus had he an opportunity of being initiated in the naval tactics of those venerated commanders, Anson and Hawke.

Mr. Gardner obtained his rank as lieutenant on the 7th of March, 1760, when he was appointed to the Bellona, commanded by his patron, Captain Denis; who, however, was succeeded in the command of that ship by Captain Falkner, father of the late gallant Captain Falkner, who fell in the action between the Blanche frigate and La Pique, a French ship of superior force, in January, 1793. In August, 1761, while lieutenant of the Bellona, Mr. Gardner was present at the capture of the French ship, Le Courageux, of 74 guns. This was a desperate action; for though, in guns, the opposing ships were equal, the Courageux had a hundred and fifty men on board more than the Bellona. At half past six, in the morning of the 14th, the two ships were closely engaged: in nine minutes both their mizen-masts fell overboard, and the enemy had nearly fallen athwart hawse of the Bellona, by which that ship would have been exposed to a severe raking fire, had not Captain Falkner, with great skill and presence of mind, wore under her stern, and brought her to a close action on the opposite side. This unexpected manœuvre threw the enemy into con-usion, and a few minutes after seven she struck.—

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The Courageux was bound for St. Domingo, with a cargo valued at 320,000*l.* and had on board ransomers for five prizes. She had 240 men killed, and 110 wounded, in the action; while the Bellona had only 6 men killed, and 28 wounded.

The success of this action, in which Lieutenant Gardner bore a very active part, is supposed to have forwarded his promotion; as, in the month of April following, he was made commander of the Raven fire-ship. A period of peace shortly after succeeded, and we are not aware that Captain Gardner held any farther command, or had any farther opportunity of distinguishing himself, until May, 1766, when he was made post captain of the Preston, the flag-ship of Rear-admiral Parry, who was then sent out as commander-in-chief on the Jamaica and Windward Island station.

Captain Gardner continued to serve under Admiral Parry for two years; and, we believe, towards the autumn of 1768, he removed into the Levant frigate, of 28 guns. He returned to England in 1771, and, being paid off, is not known to have holden any subsequent commission till 1775, when he was appointed to the Maidstone frigate, of 28 guns, and ordered out to his former station, Jamaica. He was not fortunate enough to meet with any particular opportunity of distinguishing himself till the end of the year 1778; when, having been sent on a cruise off the coast of America, about one in the morning of the 3d of November, he fell in with a very large ship, about sixty leagues from Cape Henry. Our officer immediately gave chace, and, at half past three, brought his antagonist, who hoisted French colours, to close action.

 After

After the engagement had been sustained for an hour, with great warmth and spirit on both sides, Captain Gardner found it necessary to haul off for a short time, in order to knot and splice his rigging, which was entirely cut to pieces by the enemy's shot.—At day-break, a second ship, supposed to be the consort of the ship engaged, was discovered bearing down to windward. About nine o'clock the strange ship brought to, and made a private signal. This was not answered by the Maidstone; and, pusillanimously declining the contest, she soon after made sail, and stood by the wind to the southward. At this time, the ship engaged was nearly a league to windward, under her top-sails. Captain Gardner, having effected such repairs as time and circumstances would permit, wore ship, and, about 12 o'clock, brought the enemy again to action. After a second contest, of nearly an hour's continuance, the ship struck, and proved to be the Lion, a French ship in the merchants' employ, but equipped for war as well as for commerce, mounting 40 guns, six, twelve, and fourteen pounders, with a crew of 216 men. It should be remarked, that the Maidstone carried only 28 guns, nine and six-pounders, with a crew of 190 men. The latter had 4 men killed, and 9 wounded, one mortally; the former, 8 killed, and 18 wounded. Both ships were very considerably damaged in their masts, sails, and rigging; and, when the Lyon struck, she had four feet water in her hold. His cargo consisted of upwards of 1300 hogsheads of tobacco, which would have rendered her a prize of very considerable value to the captors, had not the great attention which Captain Gardner paid to the regulations, and what he rightly conceived to be the good

good of the service, very much lessened it. It would be ungenerous to pass over this circumstance in the life of Lord Gardner without particular notice. At the period of the capture, the wind blew fairly and steadily for England, and continued so, without variation, a sufficient length of time for both the captor and her prize to have reached England. Not shrinking, however, from the arduous, the difficult, and the dangerous task, of bearing up against the wind, with a couple of crippled and scarcely manageable ships, Captain Gardner worked up to Antigua. This difficult navigation occupied nearly seven weeks, as the Maidstone did not reach English harbour, in Antigua, till the 22d of December; when she was obliged to go in for repair and refitment. Considering the inconveniences under which Captain Gardner laboured, he would have been excused for quitting his station, and making for England instead of Antigua; but, with the most meritorious perseverance, he chose to brave every danger rather than to deviate in the slightest degree from his orders. "A brave man," observes the Editor of the "Naval Chronicle," "tainted with the vice of avarice, will serve his country but by halves: for considerations of personal advantage will come athwart the execution of his duty, and make him neglect the interest of his country to promote his own. But the truly meritorious officer entertains no thought of himself; his study and ambition are, at every personal hazard, and without any regard to pecuniary emolument, to execute the duties of his station, and promote the interests of his country."—In the case of Captain Gardner, virtue may be said to have proved its own reward; for, shortly after his arrival at An-

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tigua, he was advanced, by Vice-admiral Byron, the commander-in chief, to the command of the Sultain, of 74 guns, as successor to Captain Wheelock, who had recently died.

The disinterested conduct of Captain Gardner naturally directs our attention to a subject—an important subject—fresh in the minds of our readers, and daily forcing itself on the notice of the public at large. We allude to that noble and philanthropic institution, the Patriotic Fund, for the relief of our brave wounded seamen, and of the relatives of those who fall in fighting the battles of their country. We are sorry—for the credit of the nation we are sorry—that, munificent and splendid as have been some of the donations to this fund, it has not experienced all the support which, from the boasted liberality of Britons, it had a right to expect. While we contemplate, with feelings of delight and enthusiasm, the charitable and pious sentiment which has elicited the widow's and the orphan's mite, we cannot help experiencing a deep regret, that the names of many dignitaries of the church, of many superior officers—as well in the navy as in the army—and of many opulent persons of every description, have not appeared in the list of those who glory in the name of Briton, who exult in the honour and proud achievements of their country.

As, notwithstanding the judicious measures which the managers of this fund have adopted for insuring its publicity, some of our readers may yet be partly ignorant of its nature, we shall take the liberty of inserting the following account of the origin, rise, and progress of its institution, which has appeared in one of our diurnal publications.—

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"The committee of the Patriotic Fund, at Lloyd's Coffee House, was formed in the year 1803, on the renewal of hostilities with our implacable enemy, France, for the purpose, as the resolutions then entered into well express, *of assuaging the anguish of wounds, or palliating in some degree the more weighty misfortune of loss of limbs---of alleviating the distresses of the widow and orphan---of smoothing the brow of sorrow for the fall of dearest relatives, the props of unhappy indigence, or helpless age---and of granting pecuniary rewards or honourable badges of distinction for successful exertions of valor or merit*; and the conviction of the propriety of the measure was so strong on the minds of the public, that public bodies and private individuals immediately pressed forward to testify their approbation by subscriptions, as unexampled in their amount as the occasion which called them forth was unparalleled in the annals of the country---an occasion on which we were compelled to assert our independence like Britons, single-handed as we were, or crouch beneath an usurper's footstool!

"Our brave defenders, backed by the energy of the country, have taught the lesson to our boastful enemy—that Britons will never submit to forfeit their dearest charter, Liberty. Those brave defenders have claimed and received the benefits of this institution; and there can be no doubt that they will ever continue to claim the applause and gratitude of their country, and to share its munificence. The amount of the first subscriptions to this glorious fund, was about 170,000*l.* in money and three per cent. stock; and since that time the contributions from some of our foreign dependencies,

cies, and other quarters, have extended it to near 200,000*l*.

"Of this sum the committee at Lloyd's have expended above 50,000*l*. in annuities for life, or in gratuities in money, as best suited their circumstances, to the widows, children, parents, or relatives of those who have fallen in the service of their country, and were dependent on them for support; in compensations of from 10*l*. to 50*l*. for wounds, according to their nature and extent: and in honorary rewards for distinguished actions.

"Between eleven and twelve hundred cases have already shared the benefits of the institution; and it ought to be generally known, that they are not confined to the regular navy and army. Our volunteers are likewise our defenders; and among those cases are instances of that most valuable class, where widows and children are receiving annuities on account of their husbands or parents having been killed even by accident, while in discharge of their public duty; and where individuals have received compensations for wounds accidentally inflicted in similar circumstances.

"To detail the effects which have been produced on our brave fellows, by the distribution to themselves, their messmates, and comrades in arms, of the bounty of their country, would require volumes. Innumerable letters from all quarters, and all descriptions, bear testimony to the comforts bestowed on the widow and helpless children, the aged parents and unprotected female relatives of those who have fallen;—to the gratitude of the wounded, which strings his arm afresh in his

his country's cause;—to patriotic enthusiasm, acquiring additional energy from the honorary badges of distinction bestowed for illustrious actions;—to the feeling common to all classes of our defenders, that in the events of war, whatever they may be, they themselves, their families, or relatives, will find protection and assistance from the patriotic fund.

"The glorious victories obtained off Trafalgar, by our ever to be lamented hero, LORD NELSON, and that by SIR RICHARD STRACHAN, will, as it appears by the public dispatches, present about 1800 cases more to the notice of the committee, and it cannot be doubted will require a provision from the fund, to the extent of about 80,000l.

"If therefore every class of our fellow-subjects do not immediately step forward in aid of such a cause, it must be evident to all, that the future exertions of our brave defenders must go unrewarded and unnoticed. Another such a victory, nay the continuation of hostilities for twelve months may annihilate the fund altogether.—The mite of the widow and the labourer, it is hoped, will be mingled with the donations of the rich and more affluent.

"And if any thing more were requisite to stimulate us all on this occasion, it is to be particularly observed, and is well deserving of national notice, that the victorious survivors of the battle off Trafalgar, and the relatives of those who have fallen on that memorable occasion, will suffer very deeply in the distribution of prize money, by the destruction of the prizes having been rendered absolutely necessary, and only four out of nineteen sail of the line captured having been saved."

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We now return to Captain Gardner. On the 6th of July, 1779, while commanding the Sultan, he was engaged in the encounter off Grenada, with the French fleet under the Count d'Estaing. The Sultan was stationed in the line, as one of the seconds to the commander in chief, and was very warmly engaged, having been one of the ships which began the action under a press of sail, and of course suffered very severely, having had 16 men killed and 39 wounded. The share which Captain Gardner bore in this engagement was highly creditable to his bravery and talents.

Soon after this battle, which, though indecisive, was highly honorable to the British fleet, the Sultan was ordered to Jamaica, whence Captain Gardner returned to England, with a convoy, in the ensuing year.

The Sultan, soon after her arrival, was paid off, and Captain Gardner, after remaining for a short time unemployed, was towards the end of the year 1781, appointed to the Duke of 98 guns, one of the ships ordered to the West Indies, to reinforce the fleet under Admiral Sir George Rodney. Captain Gardner sailed on this service, in company with the Valiant and Warrior, and had the satisfaction of joining Admiral Rodney previously to the memorable 12th of April, 1782, in the action of which day he was destined to act a conspicuous part. Captain Gardner's ship, the Duke, was second to the Formidable, the flag-ship of Sir George Rodney, and he had the honor first to break through the enemy's line of battle. At one period of the action, the Duke, the Formidable, and the Namur, had to sustain the fire of eleven of the enemy's ships. Their loss of men was proportionally great. On board the Duke alone, 13 men were killed and

60 wounded; among the latter of whom were one of the lieutenants, the master, and the boatswain.

On this occasion, the services of Captain Gardner were acknowledged by Admiral Rodney, in his official dispatches, and every officer in the fleet bore a generous testimony to his meritorious and spirited exertions.

In the ensuing autumn, the command of the fleet having devolved on Admiral Pigot, Captain Gardner proceeded with him to North America; and, having returned with him to the West Indies when the hurricane season was past, he sailed for England in the succeeding spring, a general peace having taken place.

On his arrival, the Duke was paid off; and Captain Gardner, we believe, held no subsequent commission till the year 1786, when he was appointed commander-in-chief on the Jamaica station, with the temporary rank of commodore. He accordingly hoisted his broad pendant on board the Europa, a fifty-gun ship and continued there nearly three years; when he returned to England, and was, in 1790, appointed to the Courageux, of 74 guns, one of the ships commissioned in consequence of the apprehended rupture with Spain, relative to Nootka Sound. An accommodation, however, taking place, the Courageux was put out of commission, and Captain Gardner remained for some time unengaged in the professional service of his country.

But he was not idle; for, on the 19th of January, 1790, preceding his appointment to the Courageux, he was fixed upon as one of the commissioners for exercising the office of Lord High Admiral; and, about the same time, was chosen representative in parlia-

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ment for the borough of Plymouth. He continued to officiate at the admiralty board, during four commissions, till the month of March, 1795; and, at the general election in 1796, he was returned, after a feeble opposition, as a member for the city of Westminster.

On the commencement of the last war, however, his naval services were again in requisition. On the 1st of February, 1793, he was advanced to the rank of rear-admiral of the blue; and, having hoisted his flag on board of the Queen, of 98 guns, was ordered to the West Indies with a squadron, consisting of seven ships of the line, two frigates, and a sloop of war. He arrived at Barbadoes in the latter end of April, and took the command on that station, as successor to Sir John Laforey, Bart. The island of Tobago had surrendered to the English a few days before his arrival, and an attack was meditated on Martinique; but, the French having reinforced that place, and Admiral Gardner not having with him a sufficient number of troops to co-operate with the fleet, nothing of consequence was effected, during that season, against the colonial possessions of the enemy.

In the autumn of the year, Admiral Gardner returned to England, when his squadron was immediately attached to the Channel fleet, under the command of Lord Howe.

On the 12th of April, 1794, he was promoted to the rank of rear-admiral of the white; and, during the summer, his flag continued, on board the Queen, in the Channel fleet.

On the 1st of June, which may well be termed a proud day for Britain, Admiral Gardner's conduct was brilliantly conspicuous. On the 29th of May, preced-

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ing the decisive action, the Queen was in imminent danger. At one period of the engagement she lay totally disabled, and the enemy, after wearing, pointed their heads toward her, which would have endangered the Royal George and Invincible likewise; but Admiral Graves, in the Royal Sovereign, gathered about him as many ships as he could, and placed himself between the enemy and them. The van of the enemy engaged these ships as they came forward, and in succession bore away before the wind; by which means the Queen, and her gallant commander and crew, were happily rescued. On the 1st of June, the number of killed on board the Queen was great. Captain Hutt lost a leg, and died on the 2d of July following. Three lieutenants, a midshipman, and 36 men were killed, and 67 wounded.

Were it not requisite, for the completion of our narrative, it would be superfluous to state, that, on the return of the victorious fleet to port, Admiral Gardner received, with the other flag-officers, various flattering marks of his majesty's favour. On the 12th of June, he was advanced to the rank of vice-admiral of the blue; on the 16th of the same month, he was raised to the dignity of a baronet of Great Britain; he was one of the officers who, in consequence of Lord Howe's specific encomiums, received a gold chain and medal from his majesty; and had the honour of being included in all the votes of thanks and congratulations from public bodies, &c.

On the 1st of June, 1795, Sir Alan Gardner was farther promoted to the rank of vice-admiral of the white; and, on the 23d of the same month, he was present, under the orders of Lord Bridport, at the at-

tack of the French fleet off Port L'Orient; but, owing to the flight of the enemy, and the small distance that they were from their own harbour when discovered, he was not able to get materially into the action. Sir Alan, however, received the thanks of the house of commons for his conduct on this occasion.

Sir Alan Gardner continued to command in the Channel fleet; and, in 1797, shifted his flag from the Queen to the Royal Sovereign, of 110 guns; but the shattered remains of the French navy kept so close in port, that he had no farther opportunity of adding to the splendid reputation which he had so honourably acquired.

In 1797, when the alarming mutiny broke out in the Channel fleet, our officer, from the great respect which the seamen entertained for his character, was enabled materially to contribute towards its suppression.

On the 30th of August, 1800, Sir Alan Gardner was appointed commander-in-chief on the Irish station, where he continued to act, with the utmost vigilance, in the protection of our commerce, until the termination of hostilities in October, 1801. Previously to this period, however, on the 23d of December, 1800, Sir Alan, as a reward for his long and meritorious services, had been created a peer of Ireland, by the style and title of Baron Gardner, of Uttoxeter. At the last general election, he was again returned, with Mr. Fox, as member of parliament for Westminster.

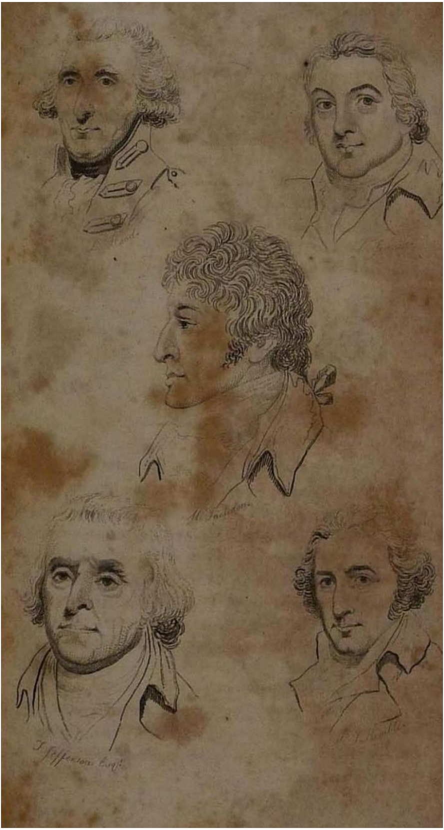
During the present war, his lordship has holden a temporary command in the Channel fleet; but is now employed on the Irish station.

Lord Gardner was married in the year 1796, at Kingston, in the island of Jamaica, to a lady of the name of Turner, by whom he has had several children. Two of his sons are at present post captains in the royal navy; and, by their laudable exertions in the service, bid fair to rival the fame and honours of their father.

DR. JENNER.

——— "This glorious prize
Sets more than life and health before our eyes,
For beauty triumphs too! Beauty, sweet name,
Should rouse the mother's feelings into flame;
For where dwells she, who, while the virtues grow,
With cold indifference marks the aching brow?
Or, with a lifeless heart and recreant blood,
Sighs not for daughters fair as well as good?
The wish is nature, and cannot decay,
'Tis universal as the beams of day—
Nor less the wish of man." BLOOMFIELD.

IN the distribution of praise, the palm of honor has generally been adjudged to those who have commanded armies, and desolated countries. Whether they were animated by a desire to repel aggression—to vindicate the insulted honor of their country; or directed by a principle of false glory, which leads the ambitious to wage hostility, from no other motive than empty adulation, still the conqueror has borne away the prize. But surely they are more entitled to the appellation of "the truly great," who, instead of inflicting the wound, devise the remedy to cure it; who, instead of following those destructive arts which exterminate the species, employ their genius and talent in order to preserve it. If this be the standard, whereby to


M. Jackson
T. Jefferson Esqr.

to appreciate the character of men, who more deserving of our commendation, than he whom we are about to notice?

Dr. Edward Jenner, the truly illustrious subject of the memoir which now occupies our attention, is the youngest son of the Rev. Stephen Jenner, M. A. rector of Rockhampton, and vicar of Berkeley, in Gloucestershire; in which town he was born, in the year 1749. His mother was the daughter of the Rev. Henry Head, whose ancestors were both ancient and respectable.

At an early period of life, Dr. Jenner had the misfortune to lose his truly excellent father; but the want of paternal care and solicitude was happily supplied by the affectionate attention of his elder brother, the Rev. Stephen Jenner. He had another brother, the Rev. Henry Jenner, who was many years in the family of the Earl of Aylesbury, exercising the holy functions of a christian minister, as domestic chaplain to that nobleman, and vicar of Great Bedwin, Wilts. The sons of the latter gentleman, the Rev. George Jenner, and Mr. Henry Jenner, surgeon, of Berkeley, are distinguished in the history of vaccine inoculation.

Educated from such exemplars of moral virtue, and christian benevolence, combined with a classical education, which he received at Cirencester, were laid the foundation of that greatness, which it is our duty to commemorate. Mr. Ludlow, of Sodbury, had the honor of instructing young Jenner in the rudiments of surgery and pharmacy; and the celebrated John Hunter, whose eminent abilities have so much enlarged the science of pathology, was also greatly instrumental in per-

perfecting him in his destined profession. Under the immediate eye of so great a man, and instructed by such enlarged experience, the pupil profited greatly; and during the life of his patron, evinced on every occasion a gratitude commensurate to the kindness and benefit which he had received.

In proof of the high estimation in which Mr. Hunter held his pupil, he actually offered him a participation of his extensive business: but neither the immediate prospect of certain honor and riches, which would have followed from the connection—nor the splendid allurements of an appointment in the east, could divert his modest resolution of retiring to the peaceful shades of Berkeley, the place of his nativity. Happy for the world! Happy for myriads, who are yet destined to fill the busy scene, that such was his resolution.

He practised for a considerable time in Berkeley, with great skill and success; and, what adds greatly to his reputation as a man, with little regard to the means of acquiring wealth.—The indigent of Berkeley ,and its neighbourhood, received his professional attention without fee or reward!

The great extent of his practice, and the uncommon ardour with which he performed its laborious duties, impaired his constitution; and finally determined him to renounce that part of his profession which requires so large a proportion of bodily exertion. Accordingly he took out a diploma, to practise as a physician.

In 1788, Dr. Jenner gave his hand to the amiable and highly accomplished Miss Catharine Kingscote, sister to Colonel Robert Kingscote, of Kingscote, in Glou-

Gloucestershire; a family which lays a just claim to a remote ancestry, and of the greatest respectability.—By this happy union he has two sons and a daughter.

From the laborious pursuits of surgery, he found sufficient leisure for enquiries more satisfactory to his genius and taste; and directed his attention to physiology and natural history, in which branches of science he made great proficience. He elucidated a point in the natural history of the cuckoo, which had hitherto eluded the keenness of former naturalists. His disquisition on the subject aroused attention, and was considered as ingenious. He is also the author of a chemical discovery, of producing pure emetic tartar by a new and easy process, which appeared in the medical journals of that day; and which was considered as the result of an active and inquisitive mind.

Hitherto Dr. Jenner had remained in his peaceful retreat of Berkeley, loving and beloved. But the most important occasion of his life soon drew him from comparative retirement to the metropolis. The occasion to which we allude, is the important and highly valuable discovery of "Vaccine Inoculation;" in the investigation of which he had occupied a period of twenty-five years, having first turned his attention to it in 1778, uniting observation with experiment, and silently eliciting the sparks of a great light, which was afterwards to illumine and guide the world. The extensive practice of Dr. Jenner, aided by his naturally inquisitive mind, first led him to the discovery. Finding that several persons, whom he was called upon to inoculate, resisted every effort of his skill to communicate the small pox, upon enquiry, he found that they had previously undergone a disease which they denomi-

denominated the "cow-pox," from having contracted the disorder by milking cows, affected with a peculiar eruption on their teats. A vague tradition prevailed in the dairies, from time immemorial, that "the cow-pox" was an effectual remedy against the small-pox. But here a difficulty presented itself, which, to an ordinary mind, would have stifled farther enquiry: the Doctor found that some of those who had apparently undergone the cow-pox, on inoculation for the small-pox, nevertheless, felt its influence in the same manner, as if they never had experienced the disease, communicated to them by the cow. Dr. Jenner was not appalled; he consulted with several medical practitioners, who uniformly discouraged his hopes, with their opinion, that the cow-pox was not to be relied on as preventive of the fatal disease. But the Doctor proceeded with undaunted energy; and soon had the satisfaction of learning that the cows were subject to some varieties of spontaneous eruption upon the teats. This progression led Dr. Jenner to the discovery of the distinction between the legitimate and spurious cow-pox; the former of which he also discovered, sometimes fails of producing the happy effect; that exposure to the air and other agencies, by decomposition, destroy the primitive quality of the vaccine virus, so as to have deceived, in the early progress of the discovery, many professional gentlemen; who, conceiving the whole process to be so extremely simple as not to admit of a mistake, have not paid sufficient attention to the state of the vaccine virus; and finding it limpid, as sometimes it will be, they have felt an improper confidence, and have mistaken a spurious pustule for that which possesses the perfect character. This inves-

investigation, by analogy of reasoning, led Dr. Jenner to the experiment of attempting how far it might be practicable to propagate the disease by inoculation; first from the virus collected from the cow, and then from one human being to another. How far these matured suggestions have succeeded, we cannot better exemplify than in the chastened language of Dr. Jenner himself.

"At length the period arrived. The first experiment was made upon a lad of the name of Phipps, in whose arm a little vaccine virus was inserted, taken from the hand of a young woman, who had been accidentally infected by a cow. Notwithstanding the resemblance which the pustule, thus excited on the boy's arm, bore to variolous inoculation, yet, as the indisposition attending it was barely perceptible, I could scarcely persuade myself the patient was secure from the small-pox. However, on his being inoculated some months afterwards, it proved that he was secure.* This case inspired me with confidence; and as soon as I could again furnish myself with virus from the cow, I made an arrangement for a series of inoculations.—A number of children were inoculated in succession, one from the other; and after several months had elapsed, they were exposed to the infection of the small-pox; some by inoculation, others by variolous effluvia, and some in both ways—but they all resisted it. The result of these trials gradually led me into a

* This boy was inoculated nearly at the expiration of five years afterwards with variolous matter, but no other effect was produced beyond a local inflammation around the punctured part upon the arm.

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wider field of experiment, which I went over, not only with great attention, but with painful solicitude. This became universally known, through a treatise, published in June, 1798. The result of my farther experience was also brought forward in subsequent publications in the two succeeding years, 1799 and 1800. The distrust and scepticism which naturally arise in the minds of medical men, on my first announcing so unexpected a discovery, has now nearly disappeared.—Many hundreds of them, from actual experience, have given their attestations, that the inoculated cow-pox proves a perfect security against the small-pox; and I shall probably be within compass, if I say, thousands are ready to follow their example; for the scope that this inoculation has now taken is immense. An hundred thousand persons, upon the smallest computation, have been inoculated in these realms.

"The numbers who have partaken of its benefits throughout Europe, and other parts of the globe, are incalculable; and it now becomes too manifest to admit of controversy, that the annihilation of the small-pox, the most dreadful scourge of the human species, must be the final result of this practice."

Whoever delights in the prospect of his fellow-creatures being delivered from a scourge, which has committed more deadly ravages than war itself, which has destroyed the fair hopes of connubial love, and with a destruction almost equal to the plague itself, has frequently depopulated extensive regions, must consider the immortal discoverer of vaccine inoculation as the greatest benefactor of the human race.

The great discovery was communicated to the world by Dr. Jenner, in a treatise which he published in 1798,

1798, entitled "An Enquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccinæ, a Disease discovered in some of the Western Counties of England, particularly Gloucestershire, and known by the Name of the Cow Pox." From this treatise, remarkable for candour and ingenuousness, we have been indebted for the immediately preceding observations.

Dr. Jenner persevered for two years after the publication which we have just noticed; and gave to the world the result of his labours in one volume, containing the most irresistible body of evidence, which the most sceptical could require. Since this last noticed work, he has furnished the public with a small tract, entitled, "The Origin of Vaccine Inoculation," part of which we take the liberty of extracting.

"The vaccine fluid is liable, from causes apparently trifling, to undergo a decomposition. In this state it sometimes produces what has been denominated the spurious pustule, that is, a pustule, or an appearance on the arm not possessing the characteristic marks of the genuine pustule. Anomalies, assuming different forms, may be excited, according to the qualities of the virus applied, or the state of the person inoculated; but by far the most frequent variety, or deviation from the perfect pustule, is that which arrives at maturity, and finishes its progress much within the time limited by the true. Its commencement is marked by a troublesome itching; and it throws out a premature efflorescence, sometimes extensive, but seldom circumscribed, or of so vivid a tint as that which surrounds the pustule completely organised; and (which is more characteristic of its degeneracy than the other symptoms) it appears more like a common festering pro-

duced by a thorn, or any other small extraneous body, sticking in the skin, than a pustule excited by the vaccine virus. It is generally of a straw colour; and, when punctured, instead of that colourless transparent fluid, its contents are found to be opaque. That deviation from the common character of the pustule, arising from vaccine virus which has been previously exposed to a degree of heat capable of decomposing it, is very different. In this instance, it begins with a creeping scab, of a pale brown or amber colour; making a long and slow progress, and sometimes going through its course without any perceptible efflorescence. Its edges are commonly elevated, and afford, on being punctured, a limpid fluid.

"A little practice in vaccine inoculation, attentively conducted, impresses on the mind the perfect character of the vaccine pustule, therefore, when a deviation arises, of whatever kind it may be, common prudence points out the necessity of re-inoculation, first with vaccine virus of the most active kind, and secondly, (should this be ineffectual) with variolous virus. But if the constitution shews an insusceptibility of one, it commonly does of the other.

"When any constitutional symptoms occur in inoculated cow pox, they are commonly first perceptible (especially in children) on the fourth or fifth day. They appear again, and sometimes in adults, not unlike a mild attack from inoculated small pox, on the eighth, ninth, or tenth day. The former arise from the general effects of the virus on the habit, the latter from the irritation of the pustule.

"If the effluvia of the small pox have been received into the habit previously to the inoculation of the vaccine

vaccine virus, the vaccine inoculation will not always be found to stop its progress, although the pustule may make its advances without interruption.

"The lancet used for inoculation should always be perfectly clean. After each puncture, it is proper to dip it into water, and wipe it dry. The practitioner should be particularly cautious in observing that its point be free from rust, either contracted by common means, or from the action of the vaccine virus, which, even when dry and in contact with it, has a tendency in a little time to produce it; therefore the preservation of vaccine virus upon a lancet, beyond the period of a few days, should never be attempted."

It will now, perhaps, be asked whether or not Dr. Jenner enjoys his well-earned fame, unassailed by envy, or unmolested by detraction.—Shame upon the age to record it, his discovery was first depreciated, and, as a last resource of malignity, actually denied. But a farther pursuit on Dr. Jenner's part; and the ingenuous concessions of eminent professional men, confirmed his claims, and covered his envious opponents with shame and disgrace. Amongst those who thus laudably contributed to establish Dr. Jenner's claim to the discovery, may be ranked Mr. Cline, an eminent surgeon of London: this gentleman, in July 1798, tried the vaccine virus on a child, which succeeded in the most satisfactory manner—he afterwards attempted to inoculate the same child in three different places, but the experiment failed of producing any effect. Dr. Lister, formerly physician to the small pox hospital, and who is universally admitted to rank high in the profession, concurred with the testimony which Mr. Cline had given in favour of vacci-

 nation,

nation, and admitted, with a candour which does him infinite honour, that the cow pox is an effectual remedy against the small pox; and "that it promises to be one of the greatest improvements ever made in medicine."

Notwithstanding these favourable auspices, the new method was discontinued in the metropolis for a considerable time; and which may chiefly be ascribed to the unfavourable reports which were made by some medical gentlemen, who, it is presumed, had inocculated with the spurious vaccine virus. But the fault surely does not rest with Dr. Jenner; but with those practitioners, whose limited experience in its properties had led them to the fault of hasty decision.

The first reports of the vaccine inoculation in London, created a violent suspicion of its efficacy, which was considerably strengthened by the insidious and malevolent industry of many artful and ambitious individuals, whose ignorance prompted them to decide rashly; and whose envy hurried them forward to attempt the suppression of a discovery too vast for their genius to comprehend. But their triumph was of short duration—declamation and sophistry retired before the evidence of facts—other reports were made by eminent practitioners, and confirmed by a most valuable testimonial, signed by a great number of eminent physicians and surgeons, which appeared in various medical journals and other reputable literary publications. Dr. Jenner also occasionally contributed his observations, which were greatly instrumental in undeceiving the public.

The name of Mr. Ring, an eminent surgeon, stands proudly pre-eminent among the advocates of the new

discovery,

discovery. He has laboured with commendable zeal, both in his practice and in various publications, to remove the unfounded prepossession of the public; and is therefore entitled to the warmest thanks of the country at large. Indeed, his industry has been so great, and his zeal so ardent, to second the efforts of Dr. Jenner, that no eulogy of ours can be a sufficient commendation of his conduct.

In praise of this gentleman, Dr. Jenner has borne ample testimony. He thus expresses himself to a foreign physician, then in London, with his accustomed candour and simplicity; "I am happy to find you have been introduced to my friend, Mr. Ring. The discovery which I had the happiness to announce to the world, is much indebted to his ardent zeal and indefatigable exertions, for the rapid progress it has made; while some of those, who vainly conceived themselves instrumental in promoting its adoption, have in reality, from their ignorance and indiscretion, rather retarded than accelerated its progress."

The physicians of the fleet and of the army have now generally adopted the practice of vaccination, with a success commensurate to their most sanguine wishes. The respective services are therefore under infinite obligations to Mr. Keate and Dr. Rush, who introduced it into the army, and also to Dr. Trotter, physician to the fleet, and Dr. Blane, who at the time was one of the commissioners of sick and hurt. The physicians and surgeons of the fleet presented Dr. Jenner with a gold medal, accompanied with an elegant and apposite address.

The introduction of vaccination into the fleet was by order of the lords of the admiralty. Its success was

 astonishing—

astonishing—the men who underwent the operation were not even entered on the sick list!

Vaccination has likewise been introduced into Gibraltar, Minorca, and Malta, with the most happy success, and holds out the consolatory prospect of finally eradicating its great and destructive antagonist the small pox, which has so often been instrumental in crippling the energies of our fleets and armies.

The Physical Society of Guy's Hospital has also furnished a testimonial in favour of the discovery, in which the members express their firm conviction of vaccine inoculation being a certain preventative of the small pox; and denominate the immortal discoverer as "the benefactor of mankind." They instituted a new order of merit, the members of which are to be called honorary associates: the distinction is to be conferred on those only who make important discoveries in medicine. The diploma, which was presented to Dr. Jenner by the president, was accompanied with an elegant oration, highly expressive of his merit for the discovery, and the candour with which he had communicated it to the world.

It would very far exceed our limits to enumerate the particulars of every testimony which has spontaneously presented itself in proof of the efficacy of vaccination. Surrounding nations, even amidst the dreadful conflicts of destructive war, have vied with each other in heaping honours on the head of the immortal Jenner. The Empress Dowager of Russia has favoured him with a letter, fully expressive of her acknowledgments for the discovery, accompanied with a valuable diamond ring. The Emperor of Germany has patronised it. The King of Prussia has encouraged

 vaccination

vaccination throughout his dominions, and as a proof of believing in its astonishing efficacy, he first submitted his own family to undergo the operation.

It has obtained credence in Europe, Asia, and America, and when the clamor of ignorance, and envy of empiricism, shall have ceased to poison the unwary, it will, no doubt, under the directing hand of Providence, give the death-blow to one of the most destructive diseases which ever ravaged the wide extent of humanity.

After the claims of Dr. Jenner to the merit of the original discovery had been allowed by so large a body of medical gentlemen, and the efficacy of vaccination most triumphantly substantiated by the best possible evidence, the parliament of the united kingdom voted him the sum of ten thousand pounds. It is not our duty, perhaps, and certainly it is not our inclination, to enter into any discussion of how far this sum was adequate to the immense time and labour which Dr. Jenner employed in maturing this invaluable improvement in medicine. The gratitude of his country, the applause of every surrounding nation, and the consolations of his own mind, will complete the remuneration.

Before we close, we cannot omit giving our opinion of its being the duty of every parent, indeed of every person entrusted with the care and preservation of their own offspring, or of such infants as may be submitted to their charge, to extend the beneficial effects of vaccination; and that our recommendation may receive the weight which we most heartily desire, we shall briefly enumerate its prominent recommendations. It has been proved to be uniformly mild and inoffensive;

inoffensive; in addition to which important qualities, *it is not contagious:* on the contrary, inoculation for the small pox is a means of widely disseminating a most destructive malady by contagion, and is often followed by the most *fatal* effects. Our faint glimmerings of the knowledge of nature have not yet led us to ascertain, in a variety of cases, the exact moment of susceptibility; in consequence of which many persons, who had received the disease in an imperfect manner, have afterwards fallen the victims of the natural small pox. Prejudices, it is true, have been raised against it, and pamphlets, written by Dr. Moseley, Dr. Rowley, and a few others, whom we have no desire of dragging from insignificance—but no individual case has been adduced, by either opponent, of a subject being liable to the variolous contagion when the vaccine virus was in its pristine undecomposed state, and when such previous caution had been used, as Dr. Jenner and his worthy coadjutors have so repeatedly prescribed. The same noise and outcry were raised against inoculation for the small pox, when introduced into the country by Lady M. W. Montague, and would again be raised, should an angel from heaven disclose to us a secret yet more important. After Galileo had invented the telescope, and had actually communicated to the world the discoveries which he had made with that instrument, certain persons, envious of his honours, undertook to demonstrate, and they actually called mathematics to their aid, that such an instrument was an impossible thing, and, consequently, all that Galileo had told them about Jupiter's moons, the phases of Venus, and the spots in the sun, were absolute falsehoods! One of these opponents of Galileo actually

actually made an *incomplete* telescope, and thus endeavoured to prove to the eye-sight of those who listened to him, that Jupiter's moons were not to be seen by any such instrument! The object of introducing this anecdote is so obvious, that we shall so far compliment the judgment of our readers, as to leave them to make the application. In retiring from the pleasing task which has thus occupied our attention, we feel it our duty thus briefly to observe, that we consider the labours and writings of Dr. Jenner to have done much in opening the eyes of mankind; not in the gloomy abstractions of metaphysic philosophy; not in midnight researches concerning the false rights of men—no! his active virtues have cheerfully gone abroad into the world, penetrating the house of misery, and securing the best earthly consolations and hopes of myriads; and may the Almighty grant, that, while he is spared among us, he may live to behold the practice of vaccination universal as his fame; and, from the love of every human being, that he may in some measure anticipate his final reward hereafter.

MRS.

Mrs. BILLINGTON.

Among the numerous instances which have been recorded, of the power of music, the following anecdote of Farinelli is not the least striking.

This celebrated singer appeared in the character of a young captive hero, and in a tender air was soliciting mercy, for his mistress and himself, of a stern and cruel tyrant who had made them his prisoners. The person who acted the tyrant was so perfectly overcome by the melting strains of Farinelli, that, intead of refusing his request, as the plot of the piece required, he entirely forgot his character, burst into tears, and caught him in his arms.

Those who have had the felicity of hearing Mrs. Billington sing, will not consider the above account as incredible.

This lady, one of the brightest ornaments of the Italian, rather than of the English stage, is descended, paternally, from a noble family in Germany. Her father, Mr. Weischell, was long well known in the musical world; for, not possessing any lineal inheritance, he had adopted music as a profession, in which he attained considerable eminence. His brother, we believe, is now a judge, at Erbach, in Germany.

Elizabeth, the subject of this memoir, was born in London, in the year 1769. Her mother, who has been dead many years, was also a votary of Euterpe, and,

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as a vocal performer, was held in much estimation. She was well known at concerts; and at a time when Vauxhall was more distinguished for its musical excellence than it is at the present day, she long enjoyed the rank of first singer.

Miss Weischell might thus be considered as extremely fortunate in her instructors. Nor was instruction lost, for, even at that infantine age in which the buds of genius are rarely perceptible, she displayed strong indications of musical talent. The paternal solicitude of Mr. Weischell prevented him from being satisfied with his own exertions, and he procured for his daughter the assistance of the first masters in the profession. The *piano-forte* may be considered as her earliest *plaything*; and, through life, this instrument has been her favorite amusement. So rapid and extraordinary was the progress which she made, that, at the early age of seven years, she publicly performed a concerto at the Hay-market theatre; and, when she had scarcely completed her eleventh year, she again displayed her talents on the same instrument, in a composition of her own.

One of her earliest masters was the celebrated Schroeter, one of the first performers in the world, for correctness of taste, and delicacy of expression. His exertions were indefatigable in the cultivation of Miss Weischell's talents, and an almost daily improvement was apparent in his pupil.

Another of her masters, some few years afterwards, (about 1782) was Mr. James Billington, a respectable musician belonging to the band of Drury-lane theatre. It has been said by one of our poets, that "music melts the soul to love." So it proved in this instance; for

for Miss Weischell had been but a short time under the tuition of this gentleman before she conceived an affection for him, which terminated in a clandestine marriage. This event was the source of much vexation and disappointment to Mr. and Mrs. Weischell, who, in the extraordinary pains which they had taken with the education of their daughter, had figured to themselves a golden prospect in her future progress.

At the earlier periods of her life, Miss Weischell's voice indicated none of that excellence which it now possesses. Its tone was considered as defective. For some time previously to her marriage, however, it had been gradually improving; and her vocal powers were then generally known and much admired. She would have been an invaluable acquisition to any manager.

Whether Mr. Billington, by arithmetical process, had calculated the probable profits of a singing wife, we have not the means of ascertaining; but, certain it is, that, immediately after their union, the new married couple went to Ireland, where the lady was readily engaged, by Mr. Daly the Dublin manager. Mr. Billington was also engaged, to assist in the orchestra. Her reception at Mr. Daly's theatre was flattering; but she did not then burst upon the world with all that *eclat* which she afterwards acquired. She even sometimes "trilled her plaintive notes" to empty benches, and taught the walls "to echo to her strain."—From Mr. Daly's theatre she went to the one in Capel Street, but soon after returned.

By her repeated efforts, her reputation was extended, and the English public became so desirous to see her, that Mr. Harris was induced to make her an offer of an engagement. To appear before a *London* audience

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was a bait too tempting to be resisted. Accordingly, on the 13th of February, 1786, she made her *débût* at Covent-Garden, as *Rosetta*, in *Love in a Village*, performed by royal command. Their Majesties have always been distinguished for their musical talents; and it has been said, that their command was given, in consequence of the great curiosity which her fame in the sister kingdom had excited. The house, of course, was crowded, and her reputation, as a first-rate vocal performer, was fully established. At that time Mrs. Billington's voice, though by no means so rich and mellifluous as at present, possessed considerable sweetness, and her taste was so far matured, as to charm every refined ear.

In the course of the following year, Mrs. Billington went over to Paris, chiefly for the purpose of receiving some lessons in singing from Sacchini, who was then in the meridian of his fame at that capital. Of this admirable composer, she was the last and most successful pupil. He died shortly after she had received from him the desired instruction.

After the death of Sacchini, she returned to England, and performed for several succeeding seasons at Covent Garden theatre with heightened success.—From a desire of visiting Italy, which she looked up to as the all-perfect elysium of Apollo, in the year 1794, she again quitted this country: during this excursion she became fully qualified for the assumption of leading characters in the Italian opera. She was indeed considered as the first vocal performer in Europe, and displayed her unrivalled powers with such success, as to receive the homage of taste and sensibility wherever she appeared. Milan, Naples, Venice, Leghorn

Leghorn, Padua, Genoa, Florence, Trieste, and various other places heard and confessed the wonders of her voice and taste. Thus to be applauded in that land of dance and song, was surely a decisive proof of her superior vocal talents.

The account of Gabrieli, by the celebrated English tourist, Brydone, may with much propriety be applied to Mrs. Billington. In one of his letters, dated from Palermo, that writer says:—"The first woman is Gabrieli; who is certainly the greatest singer in the world: and those that sing on the same theatre with her must be capital, otherwise they can never be attended to."—Mr. Brydone adds:—"This indeed has been the fate of all the other performers, except Pacherotti; and he too gave himself up for lost, on hearing her first performance.—It happened to be an air of execution, exactly adapted to her voice, which she exerted in so astonishing a manner, that, before it was half done, poor Pacherotti burst out a crying; and ran in behind the scenes, lamenting that he had dared to appear on the same stage with so wonderful a singer; where his small talents must not only be lost, but where he must even be accused of a presumption, which he hoped was foreign to his character.—It was with some difficulty they could prevail on him to appear again, but from an applause well merited, both from his talents and his modesty, he soon began to pluck up a little courage; and in the singing of a tender air, addressed to Gabrieli in the character of a lover, even she herself, as well as the audience, is said to have been moved."

Mr. Billington accompanied his wife, on this continental excursion, but it was not his fate to return.

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At Naples, while walking up stairs, after eating a hearty dinner, he was seized with an apoplectic fit and immediately expired.

During her stay at Naples, Mrs. Billington experienced the most flattering attention from every one, particularly from the late Sir William Hamilton and his lady, who, proud of a singer of their own country, who was allowed to eclipse all competitors, even in the chosen residence of the musical god, introduced her at court, and procured for her the warmest patronage from the King and Queen of Naples, from whom she received magnificent and substantial proofs of royal admiration and generosity. Lady Palmerston, Lady Templeton, Lady Gertrude Villars, Lady Grandison, and many more of the English nobility, who were then at Naples, vied with each other in a display of protection and kindness to this favorite daughter of Apollo.

In the year 1797, our fair syren, who is supposed not to have been in love with a state of "single blessedness," was again induced to enter the matrimonial pale. The object of her election was a Mr. Felessent, a native of Lyons, attached to the French army in a civil capacity. On his marriage, this gentleman resigned his post, and retired to an estate, purchased by his wife, in the neighbourhood of Venice.

When Mrs. Billington, *alias* Madame Felessent, came back to her native country, in 1804, it was said to be *with the consent* of her husband, and that she was *to return to him*, when her engagements in England should terminate.

The continental eulogies on the talents of the English syren had been so loud and reiterated, that

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the curiosity and interest of our metropolis were raised to the highest pitch. The most exalted compliment which can be passed on Mrs. Billington, is to say, that the expectations of the public were not only satisfied, but infinitely surpassed, by her exertions.

It was on the 3d of October, 1801, that she first resumed her acquaintance with a London audience, on the boards of Covent-Garden theatre. The character which she selected for her *entrée*, was that of Mandane in the serious opera of Artaxerxes; in which, the amateurs of musical science assert, that Dr. Arne has consolidated the beautiful melody of Hasse, the mellifluous richness of Pergolese, the easy flow of Piccini, and the finished *cantabile* of Sacchini, with his own pure and native simplicity.—The following scientific critique, on her first night's performance, is copied from a truly respectable publication:—

"At the drawing up of the curtain, Mrs. Billington was welcomed with that warmth which bespoke the high expectations of the audience, and the pleasure they felt at seeing her again on a London stage. At the very commencement of her performance all their expectations were justified. In the duet of 'Fair Aurora,' which she sung with Mr. Incledon, she glided thro' the achromatic passage, which closes the first and second strain with a sweetness of effect which no one could produce, and gave the minor third at the words, 'from he idol of my heart," with a delicacy and tenderness which came from the heart, and touched the nerves of the whole audience. In the beautiful and richly accompanied air, 'Adieu, thou lovely youth,' she was equally charming; her expression was every where perfectly just, and her *divisions* infinitely neat. In

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'If o'er the cruel tyrant, Love,' she was exquisite. We never witnessed a higher degree of taste, or a more sweet and impressive manner than she displayed in almost every bar of this fine and original air. Her ornaments though abundant, were chaste, and the additional notes at the final close, in which she soared with ease to D in alt, were as ingenious and tasteful as they were forcible and expressive. Her "Let not rage" was also enchanting, and admitted no idea but that of excellence of the first order. The winning softness with which she accented the notes; her high-wrought yet chaste embellishments; the melting delicacy of her turns; and the affecting emphasis with which she enforced the sentiment at the words "father, brother, lover, friend," sunk to the heart of every hearer, and convinced the whole audience of the powers of vocal music; in a word, nothing remained to crown the delight of the evening but her execution of the noble *bravura* which precedes the finale. In this, ("The Soldier tir'd of War's Alarms"), she displayed the triumph of her art. We who have formerly heard the once celebrated Miss Brent, (afterwards Mrs. Pinto) in this fine song, were utterly astonished to find the performance of that accomplished singer so far exceeded by that of Mrs. Billington. With fewer liberties than first-rate performers generally take with songs of this description, she gave it a force and novelty of effect which perfectly enraptured us. The *distances* were hit with a clearness and precision that evinced her perfect intimacy with the first secrets of fine performance; and the variation she introduced at the repetition of the concluding *division*, as also the energy with which she darted to the key-note in alt, kept pace with every

expectation her previous excellence had created, and impressed us with ideas of admiration and astonishment."

Mrs. Billington's powers were so admirably, and almost peculiarly adapted to the music of Artaxerxes, that her performance of Mandane has justly been considered as her *chef-d'œuvre* on the English stage. Duly, however, to appreciate her talents, and to be supremely delighted by the display of her fullest excellence, the amateur should witness her skill, and truly astonishing physical powers of execution, in the Italian Opera. The human voice is one of the most wonderful of Nature's performances, and that which Mrs. Billington possesses, may be considered as one of those wonders which approach the nearest to perfection.—The opening of the *glottis*, which forms the voice, is extremely small; and, as the same diameter must ever produce the same tone, its diameter, in every variety of tone, must suffer a sensible change. So wonderfully minute are the contractions and dilatations of the *glottis*, that, in some voices, its opening, not more than the tenth part of an inch, has been calculated to be divided into upwards of twelve hundred parts, the different sound of every one of which is perceptible to an exact ear.—When we consider the nice tension of fibres which such an instrument, as it may be termed, must require, we must cease to be surprised at the different degrees of excellence which are frequently perceptible in the same voice. There is not, however, such a variety of divisions, in ordinary voices, as in those possessed by such singers as Mrs. Billington.

With continued success, our syren repeated the character

racter of Mandane, for several nights, at both theatres. She also played Clara, in the Duenna; and Rosetta, in Love in a Village.

For the three last seasons, she has been at the king's theatre in the Haymarket, where she has ample scope for the display of her abilities. Madame Grassini is also engaged at this theatre; and, in the technical phrase, both these ladies are considered as *first* women. They seldom, if ever, perform in the same piece; and it may be mentioned, as a curious instance of stage *etiquette*, that, in the newspapers which advertise Mrs. Billington, as *first* woman, Madame Grassini is never mentioned in that capacity; and, in those which are devoted to the annunciation of Madame Grassini, as *first* woman, Mrs. Billington is never distinguished. Thus they are both *equal*, both *first*, and both *superior*.

We must confess, however, that, as an actress, in every thing that relates to attitude and gesture, Madame Grassini maintains a decided superiority over Mrs. Billington. Milton's description of Eve may be applied, with much force, to the Italian lady:—

> " Grace was in all her steps, heaven in her eye,
> In every gesture, dignity and love."

Madame Grassini is unquestionably one of the first actresses in England, and perhaps in Europe. Mrs. Billington's singing is almost divine; but her general action is scarcely above mediocrity, and her *ti-tum-ti* strut is truly that of the mock heroine.

It was previously, we believe, to Mrs. Billington's departure for Italy, that a pamphlet appeared, professing to record the various incidents of her life. Its contents, however, were so grossly indecent, that,

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were we satisfied of their veracity, we could not obtrude them on the attention of the reader. Thousands of scandalous anecdotes have been circulated at her expence; but, of their truth or falsehood, we confess ourselves ignorant; and, at all events, we wish not to become the chroniclers of infamy.

Mr. Charles Weischell, the brother of Mrs. Billington, may be considered as allied to her by talent, as well as by consanguinity. He was the infant associate of his sister in her musical studies, and, very early in life, distinguished himself as a performer on the violin, an instrument which he has since cultivated with uncommon success. His tone and execution are excellent; his taste, and style of accompanying, are of a very superior description; and so partial is Mrs. Billington to his performance, that she prefers his accompaniment to that of any other person. He led the band at the theatres of Drury-Lane and Covent-Garden, during the nights of his sister's performance there in the season of 1801-2; and occasionally is employed in the same manner at the Opera House.

By her journey to Italy, Mrs. Billington had at one time realised a very considerable property; but, by the entrance of the French troops into Vienna, she lost twenty thousand sequins, which she had deposited in the bank of that city. By the exertion, however, of her professional talents, since her return to England, she must have been compensated for the loss, and must find herself in highly affluent circumstances.

By her first husband she had one child, which died in its infancy, and, at present, she has no living issue. But, as "the heart wants something to be kind to," she

she adopted a little girl, when only a twelvemonth old, and has ever since protected her. She is now about eighteen, having received a most accomplished education, which she completed in a convent at Brussels, at the sole expence of her kind and persevering patroness.

THE

THE LATE

RIGHT HON. WILLIAM PITT,

First Lord of the Treasury, and Chancellor of the Exchequer; Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, High Steward, one of the Representatives of the University of Cambridge, and Master of the Trinity House Company.

BEFORE the tear has ceased to flow, for the untimely departure of Britain's first hero, her beloved Nelson, we are called upon to record another loss;—another, and a greater!

In speaking thus, respecting the demise of that illustrious statesman, the son of the immortal Chatham, we mean not to insinuate, that a more general sorrow prevails for his death, or that even the public mind is so deeply agitated, as it has been since the glorious fall of the naval chief. Yet, at the present critical conjuncture of affairs, the loss of Mr. Pitt must be more severely felt, in a political sense, than that of almost any other person would be. The continent of Europe wears a gloomy, and almost a hopeless aspect; and heavy charges have been made by the opposition party against Mr. Pitt, as the alleged cause of all the recent disasters, by his injudicious continental arrangements. These disasters, doubtlessly, embittered his last moments; though we feel a conviction, that *all was right within*; for never did a man exult more in the

the successes of his country, never did a man take a deeper interest in her welfare, never did a man exert himself more zealously and indefatigably in her behalf, than the late regretted Premier.

We confess ourselves admirers of Mr. Pitt's talents —of his truly splendid political talents—yet we are not blind to his failings. All, however, must lament—all who possess the generous feelings of Englishmen—that Mr. Pitt lives not to repel the charges which might be brought against him, and to clear his character from aspersion. We are certain that Mr. Fox, his most determined political adversary, will not enjoy the triumph which he may perhaps obtain through the departure of his rival. His magnanimity of mind must, in such a case, soar superior to every party consideration.

In the deaths of Lord Nelson and Mr. Pitt, Buonaparte, the scourge of France, of Europe, and of the world, has lost two of his most formidable opponents. To their lasting honour be it said, that there were no two men in existence whom he so much dreaded, whom he so much and so bitterly hated. The very name of Nelson spread terror and dismay through his vaunting fleets; and Pitt was constantly a thorn in his councils.

These great men are now no more. Yet we trust that Britain still feels proudly conscious of possessing many warriors, and many statesmen, capable of hurling defiance on the foe, and of confounding the measures of the world's enemy.

The death of Nelson was an enviable death. He fell in the moment of victory; victory was the last cheering word that died upon his mortal ear; and, upborne

upborne on the shouts of victory, his noble spirit soared to its native heaven.

Not such were the departing moments of Pitt.—Worn by disease, and tortured perhaps by mental anguish, though conscious of rectitude, he sunk, exhausted, on the bed of death. Yet his death was the death of the righteous.

Lord Nelson's decease was more universally lamented than that of Mr. Pitt; for, benevolent, brave, and pious, he was wholly unconnected with party. All men regarded him as a patriot. Mr. Pitt, on the contrary, was an eminent political character; and, as every political character, however upright his conduct, must in some measure be considered as a party man, he must necessarily also have enemies as well as friends. Such was the case with the late minister. Yet his most unrelenting opponents—at least those who have any claim to intellect themselves—admit the greatness of his talents, and bear testimony to the integrity of his intentions.

Nelson was the first commander in the navy, and Pitt was the first statesman in the cabinet. The nation has conferred distinguished honours, and a brilliant remuneration for his services, on the family of the former; and we trust that the munificence of Britain will not be backward in awarding some signal tribute of gratitude to the memory of the latter.

The importance of the subject has naturally led us to these preliminary remarks.

We now proceed to sketch the life and services of the illustrious son of Chatham.

For the preservation of order and connection, we must first notice the parentage of Mr. Pitt.

William

William Augustus Pitt, late Earl of Chatham, having, by the greatness of his talents, raised himself to the first consideration in the state, married Lady Harriet Grenville, sister to the Earl of Temple, a nobleman of eminent character. His eldest offspring was John, the present earl, who was born in 1756.

The miscarriages of the war, which had at this time recently commenced with France, being imputed to the weakness and misconduct of ministry, a change took place in his majesty's councils, and, in 1757, Mr. Pitt was made secretary of state. In the course of the following year, the vigour and efficacy of his administration were manifested by successes in various parts of the globe; but the development and execution of his greatest plans were reserved for 1759; a year in which, as every historical reader will recollect, a greater impression was made on the continental, naval, and colonial power of France, than during any former period.

This memorable year, in which the genius and energy of Mr. Pitt were so effectually exerted to humble the pride, repress the ambition, and reduce the power of England's ancient enemy, gave to his country a son, destined to display still greater talents than those of the distinguished father.

On the 28th of May, 1759, was born the immediate subject of the present memoir; who, in compliment to his father, received the name of William.

At an early period, the opening genius of the boy gave strong indications of future greatness. His father's hopes were naturally sanguine; and, that the promising intellect of his son might receive an adequate culture, he caused him to be educated under his

own immediate inspection. The facility with which the young scholar acquired the lessons which were presented to him, and the accuracy with which he retained them, afforded much satisfaction to his parent; but his clear comprehension of their subjects, with his reflections on, and reasonings from them, gave him still greater pleasure.

On the accession of his present majesty, when William was in the tenth year of his age, disgusted with the inconsistency and imbecillity of his colleagues, Lord Chatham retired for ever from ministerial office. Having consigned his elder son to the instruction of able tutors, from this time his lordship, though still occupied by parliamentary business, advanced in years, and oppressed with bodily infirmities, devoted his attention to the improvement of his favourite son; in the firm persuasion, as he was in the habit of saying, that "he would one day increase the glory of the name of Pitt." How far the flattering prediction has been fulfilled, the present age ought to be competent judges

The powers of the understanding, as well as the dispositions of the heart, Lord Chatham well knew, owed their determination, in a considerable degree, to exercise so often repeated as to produce habit. The intellectual exercises in which his lordship principally employed his son, respected the acquirement of knowledge, the improvement of faculties, and the formation of habits.

For his knowledge of the classical authors, in which the youth chiefly excelled, he was indebted to a private tutor at Burton-Pynsent, the seat of his father; where the Earl took great pleasure in teaching him, to argue

with

with logical precision, and to declaim with elegance and force. To strengthen and enlarge his memory, as well as to afford materials for the exertion of his judgment, his lordship required a minute and accurate account of the facts or fictions, the characters, real or imaginary, which he had been last studying. Thence he naturally proceeded to the exercise of a higher power than mere recollection, and examined his son on the force or feebleness of the reasonings, the rectitude or wickedness of the motives, the wisdom or folly of the plans, the good or evil of the actions, their actual and probable consequences, the merit or demerit of the characters. He inculcated precision of thought and full investigation, as the only genuine source of just argument and beneficial conclusion. Lord Chatham, however, was far from prompting or encouraging the indiscriminate effusion of whatever his juvenile mind might conceive or feel. He often entered into argumentation with him, and prompted him to argue with others on subjects beyond the usual knowledge and comprehension of his years. In these contests, he pressed him with difficulties, and would never suffer the discussion to cease until the matter at issue were thoroughly determined. Thus was Mr. Pitt brought into an early practice of cool and patient investigation, rarely, if ever, acquired by those who prefer the mere trappings of eloquence, and the showy ornaments of language, to plain sober diction, and pertinent matter of fact. Lord Chatham taught his son to reply readily to unexpected objections;—one of the most difficult exercises of eloquence, which requires not only perfect acquaintance with the subject and its

 relations,

relations, but the instantaneous use of the reasoning powers in applying its knowledge to solve the proposed intricacies, and to remove the difficulties.

To the last mentioned exercise was Mr. Pitt chiefly indebted for his astonishing excellence in reply; an excellence not uniformly attached to oratorical genius.

To mathematical studies, Mr. Pitt applied himself with great assiduity; and while, by geometry, he improved himself in clearness of argument and precision of thought, he, by algebraical exercises, increased his natural facility for inventing or discovering proofs. Persevering industry accompanied and assisted the endowments of his genius, and his progress in erudition and science was proportionate to his exertions.

From the instruction of his father, and from his own reading, observation, and reflection, he was very early conversant with general ethics, jurisprudence, and politics. Extensively acquainted with the history, and deeply skilled in the science of government, he considered the laws and constitution of England with peculiar care. He learned from his father, and saw himself, that it was the system of polity the most completely adapted to the circumstances and character of Britons; and that, therefore, its preservation must be the ardent wish of every one who desired the welfare and happiness of this country. He read the parliamentary debates with the closest attention and the warmest interest, especially those on constitutional points. While yet a boy, his father predicted that he would be the first man in the senate, whether in administration or not; and, "if a minister, that he must be the premier."

The

The subjoined anecdote is still farther indicative of the exalted opinion which his father entertained of his eloquence.

One day that a very important question was to be agitated in the House of Commons, a friend belonging to that body, calling on Lord Chatham, proposed to take his two sons to hear the debates. "You may take John," said his lordship, "but pray do not let William be of the party, for if he hears any arguments of which he does not approve, he will rise to controvert them; and, young as he is, let me tell you, my friend, he has not, even in that able assembly, many equals in knowledge, reasoning, and eloquence."

So uncommon a proficiency did Mr. Pitt make, in the studies which his father recommended, that, between fourteen and fifteen years of age he was taken from his father's roof, and from the tuition of his enlightened and worthy instructor, Dr. Wilson, and sent to Pembroke College, Cambridge. His first tutor was Mr. Turner, a very respectable scholar; under whom he made so rapid a progress, that his reverend preceptor was astonished, and often used to say, that he could not keep pace with him. He rose very early to his studies; breakfasting at seven in the summer, and at eight in winter.

Mr. Prettyman, now Bishop of Lincoln and Dean of St. Paul's, was appointed his private tutor. With that gentleman, Mr. Turner, and other men of experience, knowledge, and science, he generally associated; and, by the native vigour of his intellect, was amply qualified to reap every advantage from their instruction.

With Tacitus our intended statesman was already fully acquainted; and his thorough knowledge of the Greek language enabled him, with ease, to read the most forcible and profound of Grecian historians.—Thucydides was an author, the perusal of whom he was strictly enjoined by his father. Strong, penetrating, comprehensive, and profound, Thucydides gives the reader full and exact information; shews him the advantages or disadvantages of operations, plans and measures; and makes him master of the subject. He not only attains his end, but attains it by direct effort without digression or any extraneous matter. Though he lived at an age when the operation and extent of political cause was very far from being understood so well as in modern times, and indeed in later periods of antiquity, yet, from his experience and observation, from the Athenian and neighbouring republics, he had drawn many sound and able conclusions, respecting the evils of government, without a sufficient controul over popular licentiousness.

In addition to Thucydides, Mr. Pitt repeatedly read the works of Cicero, Polybius, Aristotle, and other ancient political historians and philosophers; and also of modern writers, on moral and political history and science. Nor did he neglect the orations of Cicero and Demosthenes, although he attended more to materials of reasoning and of eloquence, than to models of either.

Lord Chatham exercised his son in delivery; an excellence in which, besides his intellectual capabilities, a distinct, manly, and powerful voice, enabled him easily to attain. He taught him, while a boy, to

recite striking and important passages from the classics and from modern authors, which he performed with great energy and impressiveness.

Perceiving him so qualified, his fellow-students formed a very exalted idea of the figure which he was destined to make, and regarded his genius, acquirements and character, with the highest admiration. He was indeed considered as a model for young men of rank; and it was believed, that had not the customary exemptions of nobility precluded the contentions and other exercises usual at the first graduation, he would have attained the highest honors;—as he combined the chief requisites—mathematical science, logical precision, the instantaneous use and command of his powers, and application of his eruditon.

Mr. Pitt, though he did not stand for an honor, underwent an examination, in which he excelled most of his fellow students in their peculiar and appropriate subjects of academical exercise. At his graduation, five only of his standing equalled him in mathematical science, though then only eighteen years of age.

A few days before he completed his nineteenth year, Mr. Pitt had the misfortune of losing his father, a parent who almost adored him. Heaven, however, still blessed him with a mother's life; and to that lady's care, in the early periods of his education, he has often been heard to express a high sense of obligation. The Countess died at Burton Pynsent, in the spring of 1803, in the 83d year of her age. She was a lady of excellent understanding; and though her son's talents were naturally of the first order, it must be acknowledged that he was eminently favoured by fortune,

tune, in the possession of parents who deeply interested themselves in the cultivation of his mental powers.

Shortly after his father's death, Mr. Pitt's abilities were unexpectedly called into action: Two gentlemen, the one intimately acquainted in the family of Lord Bute, and the other in the family of Lord Chatham, having often met during the last year of his lordship's life, had expressed their desire that Lord Chatham should again be called to his Majesty's councils. Lord Bute's friend regarded the friend of Lord Chatham as the organ of his lordship's sentiments; while the latter considered the former as expressing those of Lord Bute. On the one hand, it does not appear that either of the gentlemen meant to deceive or mislead; on the other, there is not the slightest evidence that either had any authority, of the most indirect kind, from either of the noblemen in question, for any conversation on such a subject. A rumour, however, was spread, that a negociation had been carrying on between the two Earls, for Lord Chatham to come into administration.—Some believed that Lord Bute had applied to Lord Chatham; others, that the latter nobleman had attempted to come into office through the mediation of Lord Bute. Mr. Pitt, considering the latter supposition as highly derogatory to his father's character, drew up a statement to evince its falsehood, which was published by the Chatham family. Lord Mountstuart, conceiving that a part of Mr. Pitt's representation tended to convey an idea that his father had applied to Lord Chatham, attempted to refute it; and, in the course of his endeavours, advanced some observations which were calculated to make it appear, that Lord Chatham had

applied

applied to Lord Bute. A paper war now commenced between these champions of their father's fame, in which Mr. Pitt, a youth of nineteen, displayed a striking superiority over his adversary, a man of considerable talents, knowledge and experience.

From his triumph, the public argued very highly of his future excellence.

Mr. Pitt afterwards entered a student at Lincoln's Inn; and at the age of twenty-one, was called to the bar. The first cause in which he was retained, was an East India dispute. Lord Mansfield then sat on the bench; and, in the course of the young barrister's pleading, that penetrating lawyer clearly perceived that, if he adhered to the profession, he must soon become one of its chief ornaments. Fortunately for his country, as his friends will say, his talents were destined to be exerted in a more brilliant sphere. He repeatedly, however, went on the western circuit, and impressed the judges, and all hearers of sense and knowledge, with the opinion which Lord Mansfield had first conceived.

In preparing for the bar, Mr. Pitt acquired that profound acquaintance with the laws and constitution of his country, for which he was ever after so eminently distinguished. Those who have heard him plead, speak of his judicial eloquence as of the ratiocinative kind—for commanding the assent of the understanding, rather than for moving the passions of his auditors.

We are now fast approaching towards the commencement of what may be termed Mr. Pitt's public life.

At

At the general election of 1780, he was nominated by some of the most respectable persons in Cambridge, as a candidate to represent that University; but, notwithstanding his high character, he found very few to second his pretensions. In the following year, however, he was returned for the borough of Appleby, by the interest of Sir J. Lowther. On taking his seat in the House of Commons, he placed himself on that side which had constantly opposed Lord North's administration, and the American war, and which regarded him with a degree of veneration; recognizing in him the genius of his illustrious father.

His first speech was on the subject of Mr. Burke's plan of reform; in which he acquitted himself so as to justify the anticipations of the public in his favour. It was perceived that, young as he was, his oration, instead of the floweriness which often distinguishes juvenile compositions, was chiefly remarkable for accuracy and extent of knowledge, precision of thought, acuteness and force of reasoning, great and comprehensive views, and for the clear and orderly connexion resulting therefrom. In and out of Parliament his speech was regarded with the highest admiration. Experienced politicians pronounced, that William Pitt the second would at least equal William Pitt the first; and the old soldiers of the constitution were almost inclined to believe, that the powerful eloquence which had combated Sir Robert Walpole was risen, to reprobate the mal-administration of government.

Mr. Pitt, at this period, maintained a character of political independence. He voted on the side of Fox and Burke during the remainder of Lord North's ad-

ministration; yet could not justly be considered as a member of the Fox party. He formed no intimate connexion with that statesman, and, on several subjects, differed from both him and Burke.

Although Lord Chatham had joined with the Rockingham party in opposing the American war, there were two great topics on which he maintained a different opinion. The Rockingham party proposed to grant to the Americans unqualified independence; Lord Chatham and his adherents were for more limited concessions: the former party was averse from parliamentary reform; Lord Chatham thought that the state of parliament, in Lord North's administration, was such as to require amendment. Mr. Pitt adopted both these opinions of his father: he was averse from American independence, and friendly to parliamentary reform: a measure, the wisdom or folly of which can be ascertained by no abstract principle, but must depend on the circumstances of the times.

During the session of 1781-2, on the different motions which were made respecting the American war, and the conduct of administration, Mr. Pitt displayed his talents in speeches of astonishing force. Seldom, indeed, if ever, has there been on one side such a combination of genius as was now united against ministry, by Sheridan, by Dunning, by Fox, by Burke, and by Pitt. The penetration of Fox and Burke readily comprehended the uncommon talents of our young statesman.

In the Rockingham administration, a high appointment was offered him; but he declined it, and abstained from any intimate connexion with that party.

In

In 1782, Mr. Pitt made a motion on his darling subject, a reform in parliament; an object which he pursued with ardour, while his great mind had been considerably occupied in speculative disquisitions, and was not by experience matured in the practice of affairs.

In our memoir of Lord Melville,* we had occasion to observe, that, though all admired the powers of that extraordinary young man, Mr. Pitt, his friend, Dundas, sooner than any other, perceived that they were infinitely beyond the general conception; and that the penetrating sagacity of the northern statesman first comprehended and estimated his character. This was unquestionably the case. He saw that, combined with his moral qualities and habits, his astonishing powers were destined to raise the country from its degraded state.

When the Marquis of Rockingham died, the old whig party fell into a state of disunion, nearly bordering on dissolution. A new arrangement took place soon after, and Lord Shelbourne, the friend of Earl Chatham, became the first Lord of the treasury. The Chancellorship of the exchequer was at the same time offered to Mr. Pitt, and accepted.

Thus, when just turned of three and twenty, unsupported by political connexions, Mr. Pitt, on account of his own personal character, was entrusted with one of the highest and most important offices of the state.

In the twenty-fourth year of his age, his was the arduous task to encounter, in the House of Commons,

* *Vide* page 42.

the combined power of the former ministry and the former opposition. At the opening of the session, in December 1782, it was found that the parties of Lord North and Mr. Fox, after all their criminating and recriminating abuse and invectives, had formed a *coalition*.

This coalition is memorable in the annals of parliament; yet a coalition which has been more recently witnessed, was as unexpected, and may be considered as extraordinary in its nature. Never could there be a more heterogeneous commixture, than that of the Fox and Grenville parties.

The very first debate, however of the Fox and North coalition, proved that the former part had no other aim than that of opposing ministers; as its leader and his adherents censured administration for that very measure which they themselves had, for many years, been uniformly recommending. They had often asserted, that peace on *any* terms was advisable for Britain, when in a much less exalted situation than in 1783. They had offered peace to Holland; they had proposed unconditionally to recognize the independence of America; yet did they profess to reprobate the peace which they had so often said to be on any terms necessary to the salvation of Britain. Mr. Pitt, and Mr. Dundas, with great force of reasoning, defended the peace as the best that could be made in such circumstances, and attacked the coalition as formed on principles of unjustifiable ambition, manifesting these in its first acts, and leading to the most perilous consequences.

So powerful, however, was the opposition, that a

vote of censure was passed on the peace, and the ministry was compelled to resign.

Their successors, by combining the talents of Lord North, and the greater number of his adherents, with those of Mr. Fox, Mr. Burke, and their immediate friends, possessed a union, of philosophy and genius with experience, in the management of public affairs. A great weight of aristocratic influence consolidated into one mass, the parts which had been formerly of a heterogeneous nature. The result of this combination of ability, experience, rank, and property, was such a majority, as had seldom been known in favor of any former administration.

The political reader will not fail to perceive a striking similarity between the state of parties, at the period on which we are treating, and at the present moment. For party purposes, certainly not from a union of political principles, we some time since witnesssed a junction of the Fox and Grenville factions. These men, though fire and water, light and darkness, jacobinism and anti-jacobinism, could not be more opposite and contrary in their natures, have continued to act together; and, through the lamented demise of the late Premier, have at length succeeded in their endeavors to seize the reins of power. From their known opposition of principles, it has been inferred by many, that, though they have entered the cabinet as friends, it will be impossible for the Fox and Grenville parties to act together, with any thing like unanimity or cordiality. It should be considered, however, that men, when possessed of place, power, and emolument, are very different animals from those who are are in quest of the loaves

loaves and fishes, the milk and honey of the land. Politicians are generally blessed with very convenient feelings.

One, of two events, will probably take place. Either Mr. Fox and his friends will stanchly promote their former avowed principles, and a division of the cabinet will take place; or, enjoying the sweets of office, they will find it prudent, to suppress their hostile feelings, and to accede to the views of the Grenvilles. In the former case, the Grenvilles, it is likely, would be left in uncontrolled possession of power; in the latter, they would retain nearly the whole influence of the cabinet; so that, either way, the Grenville interest stands the fairest chance to preponderate. If they can agree, it will, perhaps, be the best for both parties; as the opposition to government will then be necessarily extremely weak. It must indeed be admitted, that a greater, and more formidable display of talent rests with the new ministry, than has been witnessed since the period of the famous coalition. The ex-ministry, wanting the support of that truly great and illustrious character, the late right honorable William Pitt, are feeble in the extreme, when placed in competition with the combined abilities of the Fox and Grenville administration.

The recent changes have been great, unexpected, and awful; but, with respect to a peace between this country and France, we do not think that the probability is much heightened. Those who recollect the conduct of Lord Grenville and Mr. Windham, during the late war, will not be very sanguine in their expectations on the subject. Basking in the sunshine of success, it is not likely that Buonaparte would make, or

 listen

listen to, such proposals as would reflect credit on Britain, or even shield her from disgrace. A peace, on honorable terms, would unquestionably be a most desirable blessing; but, another treaty of Amiens would be worse than a continuance of the war. We have, however, much confidence in the present cabinet; firmly believing them to be men anxiously jealous of the real interests of their country, and who will not compromise her dignity or honor.

We return to our immediate subject:—

In May, 1783, Mr. Pitt again brought forward a motion for parliamentary reform, which was not vague or indefinite, or such as might be extended according to the prejudices, misapprehensions, or passions of individuals: it was stated in specific propositions, the limits of which were easily defined, and their meaning as easily ascertained. The following were his propositions:——

"That measures are highly necessary to be taken, for the prevention of bribery and expence at elections.

"That, for the future, when the majority of voters for any borough shall be convicted of gross and notorious corruption, before a select committee of the house, appointed to try the merits of any election, such borough shall be disfranchised, and the minority of voters not so convicted, shall be entitled to vote for the county in which such borough shall be situated.

"That an addition of knights of the shire, and of the representatives of the metropolis, shall be added to the state of the representatives."

Whether a parliamentary reform would have been advisable, at the period of Mr. Pitt's motion, is a question into which we shall not now stop to enquire; yet we

we cannot but consider this plan to be as cautious, and as judicious, as any that could have been proposed; and very different from those democratic and visionary theories of reform, which many having since framed, have endeavored to identify with these emendations moved by Mr. Pitt. It has been justly observed, by a writer on the subject, that, "the reasoning of those who have charged Mr. Pitt with a dereliction of principles, because averse to the doctrines and plans of present reformists, amounts merely to the following proposition:——'Whoever has, in any circumstances, maintained the propriety of adopting a given principle to an accurately defined extent, must, in all circumstances, adopt the same principle in its utmost extent, without any limits or qualifications'; a proposition evidently carrying its absurdity in the very enunciation."

It is scarcely necessary to remark, that Mr. Pitt's motion was negatived by a large majority.

While out of office, Mr. Pitt's attention was unremittingly directed to the good of his country. One great cause of the distressed state of our finances was the defalcation of the revenue by smuggling. To acquire an accurate knowledge, relative to the details of this subject, he bestowed much pains, attention, and expence. In the autumn of 1780, having been informed that an opportunity presented itself of obtaining very accurate and extensive information, if he would go to Calais, he set out for Dover, but, on his arrival, found that, from an equinoctial storm, the straits were almost impassable. Steady, however, to his purpose, and regardless of danger, when incurred for a momentous object, he prevailed on a skipper to undertake the passage. Scarcely had they cleared the

pier, when the storm became so boisterous that the skipper declared it impossible to proceed. Mr. Pitt offered him fifty guineas; but the man, not knowing his passenger, though first tempted by the offer, rejected it, in the idea that the profferer of such a sum must be running away from his country for a forgery or a murder. Mr. Pitt telling him and convincing him who he was, he as last went on, and, after encountering great danger, arrived at Calais; where the facts which he had learned, and the modes and proceedings which he discovered, were such as to be afterwards extremely useful to himself and to his country.—This was one instance, amongst many which might be adduced, of his steady and vigorous perseverance.

Mr. Pitt, in the course of the above excursion visited Dunkirk, Ostend, and other sea-ports on the Continent; and, on his return, the most noted smuggling places on the coast of Sussex and Kent.

In 1784, an occasion suddenly offered, for bringing Mr. Pitt again forward on the theatre of politics, as a candidate for fame and power. The British dominions in India had long been in an alarming situation, and it was generally admitted, that an immediate remedy was indispensably necessary for their preservation. With this view, Mr. Fox, then secretary of state, formed, digested, and brought forward his famous India bill. Mr. Pitt seized the opportunity of displaying his talents and constitutional knowledge, by attacking the proposed measure with much force of language, and splendor of eloquence, as annihilating chartered rights, and creating a new and immense body of influence, unknown to the British constitution. Notwithstanding his opposition, however, in which he was powerfully

supported

supported by Mr. Dundas, the bill was carried through the house of commons with a very large majority. But the efforts which he had made on this occasion were not lost on the country. Petitions were sent in from all quarters against the bill, and, on the motion for its commitment, in the house of peers, it was finally thrown out, in consequence of which, the coalition ministry was dissolved by the king, who was always understood to have been hostile to the measure in his individual capacity.

On this event, the places of chancellor of the exchequer, and first lord of the treasury, were immediately occupied by Mr. Pitt. Raised to this elevated situation at the early age of twenty-five years, he had new and unprecedented difficulties to combat. Mr. Fox, his opponent, had still a large majority in the house of commons, without which no ministry can be of long duration. Mr. Pitt had no family influence, no extended political association, no one of those adventitious props which often supply the place of real advantages; he rested solely upon his own abilities, aided by those whose admiration and confidence his intellectual and moral character had secured, without any means of extending his influence, and encreasing his friends, but those which were to be found in his own head and heart. If talents, integrity, and conduct, could not create a general confidence and support, he had no other means of standing secure against the attacks of his adversaries.

Under these circumstances, however, instead of shrinking from the assaults of his opponents he attacked them on their own ground; and introduced a bill into parliament, for the beter management and regulation

regulation of the affairs of the East India Company. The leading difference between this and Mr. Fox's plan was, that Mr. Pitt left the charter of the company untouched, and the commercial concerns of this corporation of merchants under the sole management of the proprietors themselves, and directors of their choice; whereas Mr. Fox had wished to make an entire transfer of the company's affairs to commissioners nominated in parliament, with a duration of authority for the term of four years. This bill, which resembled in many particulars, that which proved the ruin of Mr. Fox, laid the foundation of the permanence of Mr. Pitt's administration. Parties, however, continued to run so high, that a number of impartial and independent men, set themselves at work to bring about a coalition, with the view of forming an administration from the two contending sides, of which Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox were to be the pillars. A meeting was holden at the St. Alban's tavern, on the 26th of January, 1784, at which an address was signed by fifty-three members of the house of commons, recommending a union to this effect, which was presented to the Duke of Portland and Mr. Pitt. The latter expressed a willingness to enter into the views of the committee; but the Duke of Portland insisting, that, as a preliminary, he should resign his place, the negociation was suspended. The duke was afterwards invited to a conference with Mr. Pitt, at the express desire of the king, for the purpose of forming a new administration on equal terms, which never took place, from Mr. Pitt refusing to come to an explanation of the term *equal*. Thus the negotiation was finally terminated.

Although

Although Mr. Pitt had had the mortification of finding himself acting with only a small minority, on the question of his India bill; and although the house of commons had gone so far as to petition his Majesty for the removal of his ministers, our young premier ventured to inform the representatives of the nation, that their petition could not be complied with.

At length, on the 24th of March, the parliament, after having witnessed more changes in the executive power of the country, than perhaps any parliament, either before or since, was dissolved.

At the period, when the coalition ministry was formed, Mr. Mansfield's seat for the University of Cambridge became vacant, by his acceptance of the office of solicitor-general, and Mr. Pitt determined to oppose him. He accordingly went down to Cambridge, but was treated with contempt by the heads of houses and senior members. One threw the door almost in his face, and wondered at the impudence of the young man, thus to come down and disturb the peace of the University!—The scene was now changed. He came down in triumph, was received with open arms, carried his election, with a considerable majority, and was able also, by his influence, to make Lord Euston his colleague.

The new parliament met on the 16th of May, 1784: and from that period may be dated the commencement of Mr. Pitt's efficient administration. He began with directing his efforts towards the commercial prosperity of the country: though he never, from his first entrance into power, till the lamented day of his death, seemed to forget that, being placed at the head of the government, it was his province to preside over the different

different departments of office, and to superintend all the various branches of administration.

We regret that our limits will not permit us, to follow this distinguished minister through all that series of measures, which occupied so many years of his laborious life, and which enabled him to bring this country to a pitch of prosperity and greatness, unequalled in the history of the world. We shall, however, take a rapid survey of their more prominent features.

With apparent political consistency, Mr. Pitt, on coming into power, again brought forward his plan of parliamentary reform; but, whether he were sincere in his proposals, or whether, foreseeing the result, he urged the measure, as a mere *ruse d'etat*, we have not the means of ascertaining: certain it is, however, that the motion was decidedly negatived by the house.

After settling the accounts of the American war, which were left in a state of great confusion, he submitted to the house of commons a plan for paying of the national debt, which he contrived afterwards to amend and improve, and which will be considered by posterity as an eternal monument erected to his name. It was founded in 1786, on a surplus of 900,000l. of the annual income, over the annual expenditure, which he proposed should be raised to a million sterling, by taxes imposed for that purpose. This sum was to be annually given to commissioners to be by them applied to the purchase of stock towards discharging the debt of the country.

With a view at once to lighten the burthens of the people, and to render his favorite plan more effective, he set about correcting the abuses which had crept into

into the collection of the revenue, improving the excise laws, and extending their operation to the article of wine. Nor did he confine his attention to details of interior regulation. His bold and enlightened mind perceived that though France had for ages been what is called the natural enemy of this country, the frequent wars in which the two countries had been involved, were more owing to false and mistaken notions upon the sources of national prosperity, and an ill-founded jealousy on the part of France, of the commercial riches of England, than from any other cause. He availed himself, therefore, of an interval of peace, to convince the government of France of the mistaken notions they had entertained upon this subject, by shewing them, that every endeavor they had made to triumph by sea, had diminished the riches and power which it was their object to increase by a contest, and that both their commerce and naval force had been uniformly reduced by the very wars through which they had sought their extension. Concord, therefore, being the mutual interest of both parties, Mr. Pitt conceived the grand and noble design of changing the contentious policy which had so long prevailed, by establishing a system of commercial intercourse which should reciprocally increase the value of productive labour. Mr. Eldon was accordingly sent to Paris to conclude a treaty of commerce with France, in which he completely succeeded. The advantages of this treaty were so obvious that they were the best possible panegyric upon the talents which had projected it.

But the matter connected with the commercial prosperity of the country, seemed always to engage a principal share of Mr. Pitt's attention. He was ever

careful

careful to maintain the dignity of the crown, in our relations with foreign states. By a spirited and timely interference in the affairs of Holland, in 1787, he prevented that country, which was then looking to the house of Bourbon for support, from falling a prey to French factions; and in the following year, by similar measures of promptitude and decision, Great Britain, in conjunction with Prussia, was enabled to frustrate the ambitious views of Catharine II. which were then directed against Sweden, and to compel her to conclude a peace on equitable terms with the Ottoman Porte.

The close of the year 1788, was clouded by a signal calamity which befel the nation in the person of the sovereign. It is unnecessary to advert to an illness which spread grief and dismay over the country, more particularly, than to recal to the recollection of our readers the circumstances of difficulty in which Mr. Pitt was then placed and the manner in which he acquitted himself of the arduous duties attached to his station. Suffice it to say, that on that occasion he gave a splendid proof of the firmness and energy of his character, and of that unshaken attachment to his sovereign, by which his whole life has been so eminently distinguished.

But the most difficult period of Mr. Pitt's administration was not yet arrived. Hitherto he had only the merits of combating a political party, a difficulty which every minister in this country must lay his account with encountering. A crisis was approaching in the affairs of Europe, which was to put at stake the existence of every regular government, and which was rendered doubly formidable by the infernal machinations of those who presided over a desperate faction, which,

which, after embroiling their own country in all the confusion of anarchy, and plunging it into an abyss of misery and crime, were bent on destroying the subsisting ties of allegiance between subjects and their sovereign, and of transforming by their foul and contagious touch, all that was ever held to be holy and respectable among men, into sources of disunion, instruments of discord, and causes of ruin. Mr. Pitt had been recognized as the benefactor of his country, in augmenting its resources, encouraging its manufactures, improving its revenues, maintaining its dignity, and conducting it to a pitch of commercial prosperity, and glory unknown in the brightest part of its former annals, and unprecedented in the history of this or any other nation. But when the French revolution broke out, he acquired the higher titles of being its saviour, and guardian angel. If any man will give himself the trouble of recollecting the critical situation of affairs in England in 1790-1 and 92—the licentiousness of the press at that period—the enthusiasm which, like a pestilential disease, had infected the populace, and from which the first men in the kingdom were not exempt, and which seemed to be drawing them headlong to effect a change in the constitution, and to new model it after French principles—the industry and zeal with which they disseminated the doctrines of the atheistical and jacobinical school—the order and system which they put into their proceedings—the audacity of their attacks upon all the regular and constituted authorities in the kingdom, and the conspiracies which they organized against the person of the sovereign himself.—whoever will recal these circumstances to his

his recollection, and not feel reverence and gratitude to that man who had the courage to face the crisis in all its alarming magnitude, and to ward off the calamities with which it threatened to overwhelm us, must either have no moral perception of danger, or no capacity of generous feeling. It was fortunate for Mr. Pitt, and still more happy for the country, that he then received a great accession of power and influence from the junction of some of the best and most enlightened men, who, till that time had been in the constant habit of opposing him; but still it was he who sat at the helm of the state and conducted it in safety through the tempest by which it was assailed. He did not imprudently interrupt the brilliant course of our prosperity by precipitating us into a war, till there was found to be no alternative between war and destruction. As to the mode of conducting it, there is perhaps room for some diversity of opinion. The circumstances were new and unprecedented, and therefore little or no light could be derived from experience to guide him in his estimate of the enemy's means, and consequently of the extent of the force by which he ought to have been opposed. If we are to judge by events and lay aside the fatal reverses sustained by allies—if we are to take the history of the war as merely a contest between this country and France—there can be none quoted in history in which England was more successful, or which proved more disastrous to her adversary. And from this circumstance we should think an impartial man would be disposed to infer, not that Mr. Pitt was responsible for the misfortunes and conduct of our allies, but that if Mr. Pitt had

disposed

disposed of the force of the continent, as he did dispose of that of this country, the success, which was only partial, would in that case have been general.

Perhaps the most arduous part of the contest was that which he carried on against the factious and ill-intentioned at home; and here, thanks to his courage and perseverance, his endeavours led to the most favorable issue. By the treason and sedition bills, the alien and traiterous correspondence bills, he, Lord Grenville, and Mr. Dundas, finally suppressed the gangs of conspirators, traitors and rebels who infested the walks of civil life, and gave the honest and loyal part of the kingdom some security for their properties, rights and liberties.

The course of the war was marked by several important events immediately affecting the public credit of the country, and one of which seemed for a time to throw the security of the kingdom into immediate and imminent jeopardy; but they were met by Mr. Pitt, with a calmness, a firmness, and a sagacity, worthy of his character, and of the Prime Minister of a great nation.

In 1793, the spirit of commercial speculation and enterprize, which had for some years been so rapidly increasing, did not find in the circulating medium at that time afloat, means sufficient to answer the highly augmented demands of trade. In consequence of the distress and alarm caused by this stagnation, and to enable the merchants to make good those engagements which were amply secured by the value of their property, but which in the state of pecuniary negociation at that time, surpassed their convertible effects, Mr. Pitt most wisely proposed that Government should

 advance

advance money on the security of mercantile commodities, by issuing exchequer bills, to be granted to the merchants on the requisite security, for a limited time, and bearing legal interest; in consequence of which, the temporary embarrassment was removed, and manufactures and trade again became flourishing.

The year 1797 was clouded by two events, which threatened consequences still more alarming, but which it pleased Providence kindly to avert through the same agency. From the great advance which the bank for a considerable time had been in the habit of making to government—from the amount of the remittances in specie which were about this period sent abroad in the form of subsidies, to foreign powers—from a dread of invasion, which had spread a sort of momentary panic over the kingdom—and perhaps we may add, from a deficiency in the circulating medium which had by no means been increased in proportion to the vast and rapid extension of commerce—a run commenced upon the country banks, which soon reached the metropolis, and created such a demand for cash on the bank of England, that their stock would in all probability soon have been exhausted, had not government immediately interposed and issued the order of council of the 26th of February, prohibiting the directors of the bank from paying in specie till the sense of parliament should be taken. The measure was bold and decisive, but it met with the support of the monied interest of the kingdom, whose confidence in Mr. Pitt has been ever unmeasured; and it saved the country from all the confusion which might have arisen from so serious a state of things.

But

But circumstances which only, affected the credit of the country, however alarming and important they might appear, were sunk in the terror and dismay which pervaded every class of society, when on the 13th of April of that year, a mutiny broke out on board the fleet at Portsmouth, which, on the 22d of May manifested itself at the Nore, and which afterwards communicated itself to several ships, both of our North Sea, and Cadiz fleets. This was an event which made the empire tremble to its very basis, and which deprived ordinary men of all power of reflection. Mr. Pitt, however, was not shaken even then; the measures adopted by him, Lord Grenville, Lord Spencer, and Mr. Dundas were the fruit of inquiry, moderation, vigour, and wisdom, and the splendid victories which, since that eventful period, have been gained by our fleets, are much more than sufficient eternally to wipe off the stain which such irregular proceedings left, for a time, on their character.

It was in the same year that Mr. Pitt adopted a new plan of finance, founded upon the principle of raising a great part of the supplies within the year. With a view of preventing the increase of the permanent debt from which the enemy expected the downfal of our credit, he proposed to treble the asssessed taxes, which he calculated to amount to a tax of about ten per cent. upon income. This plan was followed up by the redemption of the land-tax, by which the revenue gained an accession of 400,000l. a year, and the effect of the whole financial system has been manifest in the high and undiminished state of public credit, notwithstanding the burthens of a war unprecedented both in expense and duration.

 In

In the month of January, 1799, Mr. Pitt proposed a plan for the union of Ireland with Great Britain, by placing the three kingdoms under the same legislature, as they were already governed by the same prince. In developing the importance of this measure, he displayed, perhaps, more than at any other time, his delightful and commanding eloquence, his profound and extensive acquaintance with the political interests of the country, and his accurate knowledge of the human heart and character. He had many difficulties to encounter in carrying through his plan, arising from local prejudices, from contracted notions, from the violence of party spirit, and from the interested views of individuals; but to a mind like his, difficulties never act as discouragements, but as stimulants to additional exertion. He surmounted all the obstacles which were opposed to him both in Ireland and in this country, and at last successfully carried his project into effect.

In the discussion on the union, Mr. Pitt, and his supporters repeatedly mentioned the emancipation of the catholics, as more practicable under an extended and united legislation, than a confined and separate one; and he, either by express stipulations had pledged himself, or by general assurances, had impressed many with a persuasion that when the union should be effected, he would be the advocate of the catholic claims. It was understood, however, that the king, who uniformly acts from moral principle, and agreeably to the dictates of his conscience, conceived that he could not enter into the views of his ministry, consistently with his coronation oath. Mr. Pitt, on the other hand, attaching much importance to the measure, thought fit to

to resign his office, on finding that he could not carry it into execution.

This important change in the administration of the country, which now devolved on Mr. Addington, took place in February, 1801. Mr. Pitt was understood to have recommended Mr. Addington to his Majesty as his successor, and he retired from office with giving the new administration a promise of hearty support, as did likewise those of his colleagues, who resigned along with him. Lord Grenville and his friends became disgusted with the measures of their successors, much sooner than Mr. Pitt who continued to support them after the conclusion of the treaty of Amiens, during the peace, and till the commencement of the present war, when he joined his old friends who were now leagued with the former opposition, and by their united efforts, compelled Mr. Addington to resign his office, in May, 1804.

The country being thought to be in such imminent danger that unanimity, grounded upon a coalition of parties, could alone save it, it was ardently desired, than an administration should be formed upon a broad basis, embracing all the most distinguished talents in the country. Mr. Pitt, is said only to have favored this project, but to have sincerely recommended it to his Majesty for his adoption. The objections in that quarter to admitting Mr. Fox to the secret councils of the crown, were, however, found to be insurmountable. Lord Grenville refused to join any administration from which Mr. Fox was peremptorily excluded. Mr. Pitt was thus obliged to form an administration composed of his own particular friends: and if in consequence of its confined organization he did not enjoy the benefit

of the most splendid talents, this loss was, perhaps, in a great degree counterbalanced by the advantage of one mind pervading and animating all the departments of government, unshackled by those differences of sentiment and opinion which rival powers so frequently beget.

The objects of Mr. Pitt, in the present war, have been two-fold. First, to call forth the spirit of the country, and to organize a military force fully adequate to its defence and security; and, secondly, to raise the continental powers to a sense of the danger to which they were exposed by the growing power and overwhelming ambition of France. In the first he was completely successful; and, though the continental confederacy, which he arranged has not terminated in a way to correspond with either our wishes or expectations, it by no means follows that the disappointment is imputable to Mr. Pitt.

It is a curious circumstance, that, before the confederacy alluded to had been formed, the opposition party denied that Mr. Pitt was capable of effecting it; when it had actually taken place, with every prospect of success, they refused him the credit of having produced it; yet, when it failed, they threw upon him the blame of the failure.

This is not a place for a political discussion; yet, in justice to the memory of our late premier, we must be permitted to observe, that, on refering to the documents which have been laid before parliament, it will be seen, that it was under the immediate influence of Mr. Pitt, that Russia and Austria entered into a treaty, engaging to bring into the field an army of half a million of men.—The original treaty if correct, between

tween this country and Russia, was signed at Petersburgh on the 11th of April, 1805. In this treaty the objects of the league are stated with distinctness and precision. They were the evacuation of Hanover and the north of Germany—the establishment of the independence of Holland and Switzerland—the re-establishment of the King of Sardinia—the security of the kingdom of Naples—and the complete evacuation of Italy, including the island of Elba, by the French forces—and, finally, the establishment of an order of things in Europe, which might effectually guarantee the security and independence of the different states, and present a solid barrier against future usurpations. They formally and solemnly disavowed all intention of controlling the public opinion in France, or in any other countries where the combined armies might carry on their operations or of appropriating to themselves any conquest that might be made before the termination of the war, when a general congress was to be assembled, for the purpose of re-establishing the affairs of Europe on a sure and permanent basis. The other powers were to be invited to join the league, on condition that none of the parties were to make a separate peace without the consent of all the powers concerned in it. The emperor of Russia was to send, as soon as possible, two armies. one of 60,000 men to the frontiers of Austria, and another of 80,000 to the frontiers of Prussia, to support these powers in case of their being attacked by France, who might suspect them of negociations unfriendly to her views. And both his Imperial and Britannic Majesty, on the other hand, engaged to make common cause against every power, which, either by the employment of its force or too intimate

timate an union with France, might pretend to raise obstacles to the development of the measures which might be necessary, in order to obtain the objects concerted upon.—To this treaty, Austria and Sweden subsequently acceded. Five hundred thousand men was the amount of the force which it was at first proposed to collect; but it appears by one of the separate articles, that the treaty was to be acted upon, as soon as the contracting powers could bring four hundred thousand men into the field; of which Austria was to furnish two hundred and fifty thousand, Russia not less than a hundred and fifteen thousand, and the remainder to be made up of Hanoverians, Neapolitans, &c. No stress whatever was laid, in the treaty, not the slightest expectations were stated, as to the *troops* that Britain should furnish. As long as we could find money, the continental powers were to furnish men; and that, at a rate almost incalculably cheaper than they could be raised in this country, even if our population would admit of the requisite number.

We now appeal to the impartial and liberal reader, whether the above plan, for humbling the pride and ambition of Buonaparte, were not well and judiciously arranged?---We insist that it was; we farther insist---and we are borne out in the opinion, by the assertion of Lord Mulgrave in the house of lords, by that of Lord Castlereagh in the house of commons, and by the printed treaties themselves-- that it is to Austria, *and to Austria alone*, that we must attribute the regretted failure of the confederacy. Austria, the *last* to *accede* to the treaty, was the *first* to *break* it.---Was it possible for Mr. Pitt, or for any other person, to foresee, or to calculate upon the circumstance, that Austria would

would precipitate the commencement of the campaign, in defiance of an express agreement to the contrary, before the arrival of the Russian army; particularly when that army reached the place of rendezvous, *two* days before it was *expected?* Was it possible to calculate upon the improper division of the Austrian force, in keeping the greater part thereof in Italy, when it was obvious that Buonaparte's intention was to make Germany the principal seat of war? Was it possible to calculate on the idiot-like, the cowardly, or the treacherous surrender of General Mack, at Ulm, by which an army of 80,000 men was annihilated, and Buonaparte possessed of advantages which even his wild ambition had never dreamed of gaining; or was it possible to foresee that the Emperor of Austria would, in palpable violation of his agreement with the other combined powers, consent to an ignominious *separate* peace, sanctioning the total ruin of his country.

These events, though hidden in the womb of time, at the period of organizing the confederacy, have all since taken place. Mr. Pitt was not then author, but, on the contrary, the same credit is due to him, as though the fullest success had attended the plan; as though Buonaparte had been levelled with the dust from which he sprang.

While lamenting for the common welfare of Europe, that such a melancholy close has been witnessed, we doubly regret that it should have been the means of accellerating the death of one of the greatest men in the British empire. Though conscious, that *had he done his duty*, a knowledge of the distressing scenes, which

which have recently transpired on the continent, must have pressed heavily on his soul.

It was on the morning of Thursday, January the 23d, 1806, at half past four o'clock, that this truly great man quitted the present scene of existence, at his late residence at Putney.

The following has appeared, as a sort of demi-official account of his last moments :—

"The illness of Mr. Pitt originated in extreme debility, brought on by excessive anxiety, and unwearied attention to business. By this debility, his whole nervous system was so deranged, that for weeks together he was unable to sleep, and this privation of rest still further augmented the cause, so as to lead to a general breaking up of his constitution. An hereditary gout compleated the whole—producing, according to its ordinary effect on a debilitated system, water in the chest, and such a weakness of stomach, that he could neither admit nor retain any food.—Previously to his dissolution he had not taken the slightest sustenance for 48 hours, and the immediate cause of his death was this debility of his stomach. On the evening of the Tuesday preceding his death, his Physicians informed him that there were no hopes. This intelligence was unexpected, but he received it with firmness. He then desired to be left alone with the Bishop of Lincoln. In the course of the succeeding night his fever increased, but on Wednesday he was sensible and collected.

"On mention being made by the Bishop of Lincoln of his precarious state, Mr. Pitt instantly expressed himself perfectly resigned to the divine will, and with the

the utmost composure asked Sir Walter Farquhar, who was present, how long he might expect to live. He then entered into a conversation of some length with the Bishop of Lincoln upon religious subjects. After this, the Bishop of Lincoln prayed by his bedside for a considerable time, and Mr. Pitt appeared greatly composed by these last duties of religion. Mr. Pitt afterwards proceeded to make some arrangements and requests concerning his own private affairs, and declared, that he died in peace with all mankind."

So great was his anxiety for the welfare of the nation, that, according to an assertion of Mr. Rose, in the House of Commons, almost the last words that he uttered, were "OH! MY COUNTRY!"

To those who have never had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Pitt, it will be some gratification to be informed concerning his external appearance. He was in height, nearly six feet, slender, but well proportioned, and of a make indicating activity. He was rather careless in his gait, but a very good rider. His complexion was inclining to fair; his eyes blue, rather thoughtful than sparkling; his features prominent, his forehead high and capacious.

It is generally known, that Mr. Pitt died unmarried, and that, from the narrowness of his income, and the want of leisure to attend to his private affairs, his pecuniary concerns were much embarrassed. After a life spent in the service of his country, it was therefore but just, that that country should feel itself bound to discharge his debts; more particularly as the demands upon him were not such as indicated extravagance or unnecessary profusion. Accordingly, on the 3d of February, a motion was made in the House of Commons,

Commons, beseeching his Majesty to order, that a sum, not exceeding £40,000, should be granted towards the payment of his debts. The motion was unanimously carried; and it was matter of universal surprise, that the sum required was not considerably larger.

Previously to the above motion, however on the 27th of January, Mr. Lascelles had moved, in the House of Commons, "that an humble address be presented to his Majesty, praying, that he may be graciously pleased to order the remains of the late Rt. Hon. Wm. Pitt to be interred at the public charge; and that a monument be erected to his memory in the collegiate church of St. Peter, Westminster, having an inscription expressive of the national regret at the loss of that excellent statesman.

This motion was carried, though not unanimously; and it reflects no credit upon that senate, in which his brilliant talents had so often commanded attention, that not one speech, worthy of the illustrious subject, was delivered on the occasion. Mr. Fox's conduct, however, was particularly liberal and meritorious. He observed that, were it not from motives of policy, which compelled him to oppose the motion, his private feelings would induce him to vote for the affirmative. Mr. Pitt, he said, was in truth a great man; there never was a more disinterested man, or a minister of more purity of intention. General Tarleton's vote, too, was a high compliment to the memory of Mr. Pitt. The General had uniformly been in opposition to his measures; yet he declared that he had come down to the house, purposely to support the motion; and he had no hesitation in saying, that the last six months

of

of the Hon. Gentleman's life had been the most brilliant period of it.

The motion was carried by a majority of 258 against 89. At the time of preparing this article for the press, the funeral of Mr. Pitt had not taken place; but preparations had been made for the body to lie in state, in the painted chamber of the House of Lords, previously to the interment, which was mentioned for the 22d of February.

In paying a tribute to the memory of this truly great and illustrious statesman, a contemporary writer observes, that, "fallible, as *man* must, of necessity, be, Mr. Pitt might be sometimes mistaken in the *means* of promoting the interests of his country; but every measure of his political life had, unquestionably, those interests for its end. However party might misrepresent, however malice might pervert, however personal enmity might disguise, his conduct and his motives; we defy the ingenuity of either to supply, from the annals of Europe, any statesman since the days of Sully, so perfectly superior to every selfish feeling, or who so cheerfully and so uniformly sacrificed private interest to public good: his political wisdom was pre-eminently great: though, in estimating it by its effects, regard should ever be paid to the critical circumstances of the times in which he lived, and to the necessity which existed for the occasional surrender of his own opinions, to the prejudices of the public, to the sentiments of his associates in power, or to other paramount influence which he either could not, or ought not to control. His oratorical powers were, as has been truly observed *sui generis*; like the professional genius of Nelson, they ever rose, in splendor and effect, to

to a level with the occasion that called for their display. He combined the elegance of Tully, with the energy of Demosthenes. Had his speeches been literally reported, the most chaste, correct, and classical writers of the age could, with difficulty have found a single passage, the alteration of which would have given additional grace to the style, greater effect to the thought, or superior dignity to the subject. His eloquence was spontaneous; always great, it shone with peculiar, with unequalled splendor in a reply, which precluded the possibility of previous study; while it fascinated the imagination by a brilliancy of language, it convinced the judgment by the force of argument; like an impetuous torrent, it bore down all resistance; it extorted the admiration even of those who most severely felt its strength, and who most earnestly deprecated its effects. In a word, if ever there existed a man of *spotless integrity*, that man was WILLIAM PITT. In private life he was rigidly just, and strictly moral, and as his virtues were greater, so were his failings less than fell to the lot of most men. The good and the honorable amongst his contemporaries will admire, posterity will appreciate, history will record, his merits. As he lived respected, so has he died lamented, by all who knew his private worth, and who felt the value of his public services.

ROBERT BLOOMFIELD.

"Sweet are his transports whom the muse inspires!
'Tis his to soar on seraph-wings sublime,
When lessening nature from his ken retires:
His, the best suffrage of approving time;
His, the calm energy that spurns at crime;
His proud submission to the good and fair;
And his, while generous verse or soothing rhyme
The fine emotions of the soul declare,
With distant worlds, and times those sympathies to share."

COWRTIER.

THE life of a poet, so much, and so justly celebrated, as the author of The Farmer's Boy, cannot fail of exciting strong interest in every reader of taste and sentiment.

Whether we consider the writings of Mr. Bloomfield, with reference to the humble birth and education of their author, or whether we judge of them solely by their intrinsic merit, we shall find much to applaud, and much to admire.

In submitting this memoir to the public, we must necessarily make very free with the particulars which have before been given to the world, by Mr. George Bloomfield, a brother of the poet, through the medium of that *accomplished* critic, and *eminent* literary cha-

racter, Capel Lofft, Esq. We shall not, however, pin our faith upon the sleeve of that gentleman, nor shall we suffer his gratuitous opinions to bias our remarks on the poetical labours of the English Burns.

"As I spent five years with the author," says his brother, in a letter to Mr. Lofft, "from the time he was thirteen years and a half old * till he was turned of eighteen, the most interesting time of life (I mean the time that instruction is acquired, if acquired at all) I think I am able to give a better account of him than any one can, or than he can of himself, for his modesty would not let him speak of his temper, disposition, or morals."

From this account, it appears, that Robert, who is now the subject of our consideration, was the youngest child of George Bloomfield, a taylor, at the village of Honnington, situated between Euston and Troston, and about eight miles N. E. of Bury. His mother's name was Elizabeth. She was the daughter of Robert Manby, and sister to the wife of Mr. William Austin, a farmer, of Sapiston, a village adjoining that of Honnington. Robert was born on the 3d of December, 1766, and had the misfortune to lose his father, when an infant, under the age of twelve months. The early part of his education, however, was not wholly neglected, for his mother, who was a school-mistress, with the rest of her pupils, instructed her own children; so that Robert learned to read as soon as he had learned to speak. We are also told, that though the mother

* By an account which was obtained subsequently to the receipt of this letter, it was discovered that the writer was under a slight error, as Robert did not come to London till he was somewhat turned of fourteen years and a half.

 was

was left a widow, with six small children,* yet, with the help of friends, she managed to give each of them a little schooling. Robert was accordingly sent to Mr. Rodwell, of Ixworth, to be improved in writing; but he did not remain under that gentleman's tuition more than two or three months, nor was he ever sent to any other school. His mother married again when he was about seven years old; and, by her second husband, John Glover, she had another family.

"When Robert was not above *eleven* years old," says his brother, "the late Mr. W. Austin of Sapiston, took him. And though it is customary for farmers to pay such boys only one shilling and sixpence per week, yet he generously took him into the house." We are not acquainted with Mr. Austin's circumstances; but he appears to have been a respectable working farmer; and we confess that we cannot perceive any wonderful stretch of generosity, in his taking a relation into his house, and furnishing him with board and lodging for his labour. This, however, appears to have been an accommodation to the boy's mother, as it relieved her of every expence but that of finding him a few things to wear; but even that was more than she well knew how to do. In consequence of the narrowness of her circumstances, she therefore wrote to her sons, George and Nathaniel, then in London, to assist her; mentioning that Robert was so small of his age, that Mr. Austin said he was not likely to be able to get his living by hard labour. Mr. George Bloomfield, whose conduct seems to have been dictated by the most amiable

* George, Nathaniel, Isaac, two daughters, and Robert, the subject of this sketch.

and truly fraternal affection, immediately informed his mother, that if she would let him have the boy with him, he would take him and instruct him in his own trade—that of a shoemaker; and that Nathaniel had promised to clothe him. On this agreeable offer, Robert left Mr. Austin's on the 29th of June, 1781, and, with his mother, immediately came to London; she observing, that she should never have been happy, if she had not put him into George's hands, "She charged me," says George, "*as I valued a mother's blessing, to watch over him, to set good examples for him, and never to forget that he had lost his father.*" We have every reason to believe, that George adhered, most religiously, to this fondly maternal injunction.

At this time, Mr. George Bloomfield lodged in Pitcher's Court, Bell-alley, Coleman-Street. "It is customary," he observes, "in such houses as are fit to let to poor people in London, to have light garrets fit for mechanics to work in. In the garret, where we had two turn-up beds, and five of us worked, I received little Robert."

As the simplicity of George's narrative renders it highly worthy of attention, and as nothing can convey a clearer idea of the embryo poet's progress, we shall take the liberty of making an extract from it, as given to the public by Mr. Lofft.

"As we were all single men," says the writer, "lodgers at a shilling per week each, our beds were coarse, and all things far from being clean and snug, like what Robert had left at Sapiston. Robert was our man to fetch all things to hand. At noon he fetcht our dinners from the cook's shop; and any one of our fellow-workmen that wanted to have any thing fetcht in, would send

send him, and assist in his work and teach him, for a recompense for his trouble.

"Every day when the boy from the public house came for the pewter pots, and to hear what porter was wanted, he always brought the yesterday's newspaper. The *reading* of the paper we had been used to take by turns; but after Robert came, he mostly read for us, because his time was of least value.

He frequently met with words that he was unacquainted with: of this he often complained. I one day happened at a book-stall to see a small dictionary, which had been very ill used. I bought it for him for fourpence. By the help of this he in a little time could read and comprehend the long and beautiful speeches of Burke, Fox, or North.

"One Sunday, after a whole day's stroll in the country, we by accident went into a dissenting meeting-house, in the Old Jewry, where a gentleman was lecturing. This man filled Robert with astonishment. The house was amazingly crowded with the most genteel people: and though we were forced to stand still in the aisle, and were much pressed, yet Robert always quickened his steps into town on a Sunday evening soon enough to attend this lecture.

"The preacher lived somewhere at the west end of the town—his name was Fawcet. His language was just such as the Rambler is written in; his action like a person acting a tragedy; his discourse rational, and free from the cant of methodism.

"Of him Robert learned to accent what he called *hard* words; and otherwise improved himself; and gained the most enlarged notions of Providence.

"He went sometimes with me to a debating society at

at Coach-maker's hall, but no toften; and a few times to Covent-Garden theatre: these are all the opportunities he ever had to learn from public speakers. As to *books*, he had to wade through two or three folios; an History of England, British Traveller, and a Geography. But he always read them as a task; or to oblige us who bought them. And as they came in sixpenny numbers weekly, he had about as many hours to read as other boys spend in play.

George Bloomfield was at that time in the habit of reading the London Magazine; in which about two sheets were set apart for the review of literature. Robert seemed always eager to read the *Review*. There he could see what, in the affected orthography of Mr. Lofft, the "*literary*" men were doing, and learn how to judge of the merits of the works that came out. Robert always looked at the *poet's corner*; and one day he repeated a song, which he had composed to an old tune. George was much surprised that a boy of his age should make such smooth verses; "so I persuaded him," says he, "to try whether the editor of our paper would give them a place in *poet's corner*. The attempt was successful; and the following effusion, to which Mr. Dignum afterwards composed an air, was inserted in *The Gazetteer*.

THE MILK-MAID.

ON THE FIRST OF MAY.

"Hail, May! lovely May! how replenish'd my pails
The young dawn o'erspreads the east streak'd with gold!
My glad heart beats time to the laugh of the vales,
And Colin's voice rings through the woods from the fold.

"The

"The wood to the mountain submissively bends
Whose blue misty summits first glow with the sun!
See thence a gay train by the wild rill descends
To join the glad sports! hark! the tumult's begun.

"Be cloudless, ye skies!—Be my Colin but there,
Not dew-spangled bents on the wide level dale,
Nor morning's first blush, can more lovely appear;
Than his looks, since his wishes I could not conceal.

"Swift down the mad dance, while blest health prompts to move,
We'll count joys to come, and exchange vows of truth;
And haply when age cools the transports of love,
Decry, like good folks, the vain pleasures of youth."

We have inserted the above, rather as a curiosity, it being the first known production of our poet, than on account of any intrinsic merit which it possesses. The author however, asserts, that the copy was not correctly given by his brother to Mr. Lofft, and that he could point out seven or eight errors, and deviations from the true copy, as it was actually printed.

We know not what Mr. Lofft's opinion might be, as to the *correctness* of the song; but, as he did not conceive it to be complete, he, with much *modesty*, very *obligingly* added the following stanza:—

"No, no; the remembrance shall ever be dear!
At no time love with innocence ceases to charm:
It is transport in youth——and it smiles through the tear,
When they feel in their children, its first soft alarm."

It is wholly unnecessary to offer any comment on the *elegance* of Mr. Lofft's muse; but it would be unjust, were we not to inform the reader, that he "doubts *whether*

whether he *has* been successful in adding the last stanza to this beautiful and simply expressive song. But he imagined that some thought of this kind was in the mind of the author: and he was willing to endeavor to express it." Our critic then tells us, that "the breast which has felt love, *justly* shrinks from the idea of its total extinction, as from annihilation itself;" and brings forward two quotations, one from Mr. Collier, and another from Rousseau, to corroborate his opinion upon the subject. He next proceeds to say:—"And there is even *an high* social and moral use in that order of Providence which exalts sensations into tender and benign passions; those passions into habitual affections yet more tender; and raises from those affections virtues the most permanent, the most necessary and beneficent, and the most endearing: thus expanding the sentiment into all the charities of domestic and social life."—The reader, it is presumed, will feel no hesitation in adjudging the *correctness*, *harmony*, and *elegance* of Mr. Lofft's prose periods, to be as nearly as possible on a par with the *beauty* of his poetry.

Robert had now acquired so much knowledge, that his brother and fellow workmen in the garret, "began to get instructions from him," though he was not more than seventeen years old.

About this time, there came a man to lodge with them who was troubled with fits. The sensibility of Robert was so much hurt by the frightful contortions of his features, and the shocking screams which he uttered, that George was forced to change their lodging. They accordingly occupied a garret in Blue-hart Court, Bell-Alley, where they found a singular character,

racter, James Kay, a native of Dundee. George Bloomfield describes him as a middle-aged man, of a good understanding, and yet a furious Calvinist. This man had many books, some of which he did not value. Among these were *Thomson's Seasons, Paradise Lost*, and some novels which he lent to Robert. The perusal of the Seasons imparted to our youthful poet supreme delight. He spent all his time in reading them, and is never known to have given so much praise to any other book.

In the year 1784, the question—*whether those who had learned, without serving an apprenticeship, could follow the trade?*—came to be decided between the journeymen shoe-makers. George Bloomfield being among what were termed the *unlawful crafts*, and Robert not being an apprentice, some violent altercations took place. Robert, who was naturally fond of peace, and fearful for the personal safety of his brother, begged that he might be suffered to retire from the storm. He accordingly went into the country, where his early patron, Mr. Austin, kindly bade him take his house for his home till he could return to his brother in London. "And here," says George, "with his mind glowing with the fine descriptions of rural scenery which he found in *Thomson's Seasons*, he again retraced the very fields where first he began to think. Here, free from the smoke, the noise, the contention of the city, he imbibed that love of rural simplicity and rural innocence, which fitted him, in a great degree to be the writer of such a thing as *The Farmer's Boy*."

Robert remained two months in the country; and, as the dispute among the trade still remained undecided, Mr. Dudbridge offered to take him apprentice,

 for

for the purpose of securing him from any unpleasant consequence that might result from the litigation. He was accordingly bound by Mr. Ingram, of Bell Alley, to Mr. John Dudbridge; his brother George paying five shillings, by way of form, as a premium. Dudbridge, who was their landlord, and a freeman of the city of London, acted most honorably, for he took no advantage of the power which the indenture gave him.

"George Bloomfield," Mr. Lofft informs us, "staid with Robert till he found he could work as expertly as *his self*." George then left London and settled at Bury; but considers much of his happiness to have arisen from a constant correspondence which he has since holden with his brother.

Robert, after his brother left him, studied music, and became a good player on the violin.

Nathaniel having married a resident of Woolwich, Robert also became acquainted with a young woman, of the name of Church, the daughter of a boat-builder in the government yard of that town. On the 12th of December, 1790, he married, and has had at least four children:—Hannah, born the 25th of October, 1791; Mary Anne, 6th of July, 1793; Charles, 15th September, 1798; Charlotte, 21st April, 1801.

Soon after his marriage, he wrote to his brother George, telling him, that *he had sold his fiddle and got a wife*. "Like most poor men," says George, "he got a wife first, and had to get household stuff afterwards. It took him some years to get out of ready-furnished lodgings. At length, by hard working, &c. he acquired a bed of his own, and hired the room up one pair of stairs at No. 14, Bell Alley, Coleman Street. The landlord

landlord kindly gave him leave to sit and work in the light garret, two pair of stairs higher. "In *this* garret," continues his brother, "amid six or seven other workmen, his active mind employed itself in composing *The Farmer's Boy*."

The following analysis of this highly celebrated and justly successful poem, is from the elegant pen of Dr. Drake:

"The *first* book, intitled *Spring*, opens with an appropriate invocation. A transition is then made to the artless character of *Giles*, the *Farmer's Boy*; after which the scene near *Euston*, in Suffolk, is described, and an amiable portrait of Mr. *Austin* immediately follows.

"Seed time, harrowing, the devastation of the rooks, wood scenery, the melody of birds, cows milking, and the operations of the dairy, occupy the chief part of the season: which is closed by a beautiful personification of the spring and her attendants, and an admirable delineation of the sportive pleasures of the young lambs.

"The *second* book, or *Summer*, commences with a characteristic sketch of the prudent yet benevolent farmer. The genial influence of the rain is then welcomed; to which succeeds a most delicious picture of a green and woody covert with all its insect tribe. The ascension of the sky-lark, the peaceful repose of *Giles*, a view of the ripening harvest, with some moral reflections on nature and her great creator, are introduced: followed by animated descriptions of reaping, gleaning, the honest exultation of the farmer, the beauty of the country girls, and the wholesome refreshment of the field. Animals teazed by insects, the cruelty of dock-

 ing

ing horses, the insolence of the gander, the apathy of the swine, are drawn in a striking manner: and the book concludes with masterly pictures of a twilight repose, a midnight storm of thunder and lightning, and views of the ancient and present mode of celebrating harvest-home.

" The *third* book, *Autumn*, is introduced with a delineation of forest scenery, and pigs fattening on fallen acorns. Sketches of wild ducks, and haunts of hogs settling to repose in a wood, and of wheat sowing, succeed. The sound of village bells suggests a most pleasing digression of which the church and its pastor, the rustic amusements of a Sunday, the village maids, and a most pathetic description of a distracted female, are the prominent features. Returning to rural business, *Giles* is drawn guarding the rising wheat from birds: his little hut, with his preparation for the reception of his playmates, their treachery and his disappointments are conceived and coloured in an exquisite style. Fox-hunting, and fox-hounds epitaph, the long autumnal evening, a description of domestic fowl, and a welcome to the snowy nights of Winter, form the concluding topics of this season.

The *fourth* book, under the appellation of *winter*, is ushered in by some humane injunctions for the treatment of storm-pinched cattle. The frozen turnips are broken for them: and the cow-yard at night is described. The conviviality of a Christmas evening, and the conversation round the fire, with the admonition from the master's chair, are depicted in a manner truly pleasing. The *sea boy* and the *farmer's boy* are contrasted with much effect: and the ploughman feeding his horses at night, with the comparison between the cart-horse and

and the post-horse, have great merit. The mastiff turned sheep-biter is next delineated, succeeded by a description of a moon-light night, and the appearance of a spectre.

"The counting of the sheep in the fold and the adopted lambs, are beautiful paintings: and with the triumph of *Giles* on the conclusion of the year, and his address to the *Deity*, the book and poem close.

"Such are the materials of which *The Farmer's Boy* is constructed. Several of the topics it will be perceived are new to poetry; and of those which are in their *title* familiar to the readers of our descriptive bards, it will be found that the imagery and adjunctive circumstances are original, and the efforts of a mind practised in the rare art of selecting and combining the most striking and picturesque features of an object."

We learn from Mr. Lofft, that, in the winter of 1798, he received the manuscript of this poem, which he was requested to read, and to give his opinion of it. Seeing it divided into the four seasons, "I had," said Mr. Lofft, "to encounter a prepossession not very advantageous to any writer: that the author was treading in a path already so admirably *trod* by Thomson; and might be adding one more to an attempt already so often, but so injudiciously and unhappily made, of transmuting that noble poem from blank verse into rhyme—from its own pure native gold into an alloyed metal of incomparably less splendor, permanence, and worth. I had soon, however," continues he, "the pleasure of finding myself relieved from that apprehension: and of discovering, that, although the delineation of rural scenery naturally branches itself into these divisions, there was little else

 except

except the general qualities of a musical ear, flowing numbers, feeling, piety, poetic imagery and animation, a taste for the picturesque, a true sense of the natural and pathetic, force of thought, and liveliness of imagination, which were in common between Thomson and this author. And these are qualities which whoever has the eye, the heart, the awakened and surrounding intellect, and the divine sense of the poet, which can alone deserve the name, must possess." It would be very difficult, we conceive, to translate the preceding sentences into any thing like decent English.

The manuscript had previously been shewn to some persons in London; but, as it possessed not the advantage of a fashionable or popular name, it had met with no encouragement. Mr. Lofft, however, to whose exertions some credit is unquestionably due, was struck with the performance, and sent it to a friend, on whose taste and liberality he firmly relied. That gentleman, (Thomas Hill, Esq.) expressed himself much pleased with it; and, having communicated the work to some respectable booksellers, it was published in 1800, with every advantage of typographical accuracy and beauty.

" My part," says Mr. Lofft, " has been this, and it has been a very pleasing one: to revise the MS. making *occasionally* corrections with respect to orthography, and sometimes in the grammatical construction. The corrections, in point of grammar, reduce themselves almost wholly to a circumstance of provincial usage, which even well educated persons in Suffolk and Norfolk do not wholly avoid; and which may be said, as to general custom, to have become in these counties almost an established dialect: that of adopting the plural for the singular termination of verbs, so

as

as to exclude the *s*. But not a line is added or substantially altered through the whole poem. I have requested the MS. to be preserved for the *satisfaction* of those who may wish to be *satisfied* on this head."

We cannot help wishing, that Mr. Lofft had taken either greater or less liberties, in correcting the poem; for, those which he took were sufficient to prove that the printed copy was very different from the original, as it came from the hands of Mr. Bloomfield; while his emendations were not sufficiently numerous or copious to give the work that elegance which it ought to have possessed. As he, in some instances, corrected the grammatical construction, why did he not do so wherever correction was requisite? The progress which Mr. Bloomfield has made, in what may be termed the mechanism of literature, since the first edition of *The Farmer's Boy* appeared, has enabled him greatly to improve the diction of that poem; yet, though the recent editions have acquired a high polish, compared with the early ones, all has not been done that might, and that ought to be done. Pope was never weary of correcting and improving his poems: they were designed for posterity; and readers of the present age are grateful to him for the labour which he bestowed for their gratification. *The Farmer's Boy* will also descend to posterity; and, on that account, it ought to undergo a severe examination and revision by its author. The recent editions, as we have already said, are, comparatively speaking, highly polished; yet they contain so many tame, ill-constructed, and prosaic lines, as indicate, either that the taste of Mr. Lofft must be grossly defective in not having pointed them out to the author; or that Mr. Bloomfield must be incorrigibly

bly obstinate in retaining them, supposing his attention to have been directed to them.

We do not speak thus, with a view of detracting from the general merit of the poem, which is high and unquestionable; but we wish to see it approach yet nearer to perfection. We, in common with thousands of other poetical readers, have felt hurt too, at the manner in which Mr. Lofft's un-asked for criticisms, which were distinguished neither by elegance nor *acumen*, were obtruded on the public. We should have thought, that the annotations of the critic and the friend would have appeared with propriety at the close of the work to which they related; instead of which the remarks of Mr. Lofft were *prefixed*, as well to the subsequent volume which Mr. Bloomfield published, as to *The Farmer's Boy*, thereby preventing the reader, in a great measure, from exercising his own judgment. We are confident that this *prefixed* criticism has proved materially injurious to the success of the poem.

After the numerous, and truly excellent critics, who, in various publications, have exercised their talents in analysing and pointing out the beauties of *The Farmer's Boy*, it would savour of presumption and folly, and could by no means be acceptable to the reader, were we to enter at any length into its particular merits. As it is possible, however, that some of our friends may not yet have enjoyed the pleasure of perusing this unassuming effusion of the rustic muse, it would perhaps be thought unpardonable were we not to exhibit some brief extract.—Mr. Bloomfield's distracted female, his

"——Lovely

" ———Lovely Poll, who innocently try'd,
With hat of airy shape and ribbons gay,
Love to inspire, and stand in Hymen's way;

though much inferior to Cowper's *Crazy Kate*, has been greatly admired. We think, however, that the following description of the sufferings of the *post horse* possesses as much of nature and of genuine pathos, as any passage in the poem:—

" Short-sighted Dobbin!—thou canst only see,
The trivial hardships that *encompass* thee:
Thy chains are freedom, and thy toils repose,
Could the poor *post-horse* tell thee all his woes;
Shew thee his bleeding shoulders, and unfold
The dreadful anguish he endures for gold.
Hired at each call of business, lust or rage,
That prompts the trav'ller on from stage to stage.
Still on *his* strength depends their boasted speed;
For them his limbs grow weak, his bare ribs bleed;
And though he groaning quickens at command,
The extra shilling in the rider's hand
Becomes his bitter scourge;—'tis *he* must feel
The double efforts of the lash or steel;
Till when, up hill, the destin'd inn he gains,
And trembling under complicated pains,
Prone from his nostrils, darting on the ground,
His breath emitted floats in clouds around:
Drops chase each other down his chest and sides,
And spatter'd mud his native colour hides:
Through his swoln veins the boiling torrent flows,
And every nerve a separate torture knows.
His harness loos'd, he welcomes eager eyed
The pail's full draught that quivers by his side;
And joys to see the well-known stable door,
As the starv'd mariner the friendly shore.

Ah

Ah, well for him if here his sufferings ceas'd,
The ample house of rest his pains appeased!
But rous'd again, and sternly bid to rise,
And shake refreshing slumber from his eyes,
Ere his exhausted spirits can return,
Or through his frame reviving ardour burn,
Come forth he must, though limping, maim'd and sore,
He hears the whip, the chaise is at the door:
The collar tightens, and again he feels
His half-heal'd wounds inflam'd; again the wheels
With tiresome sameness in his ears resound,
O'er blinding dust, or miles of flinty ground.
Thus nightly robb'd, and injured day by day,
His piece-meal murd'rers wear his life away."

The success of *The Farmer's Boy* was fully commensurate to the expectations of its first patrons, and has since been the means of procuring for its author a comfortable competence. The Duke of York, the Duke of Grafton, Sir Charles Bunbury, and Dr. Drake stand foremost in the list of Mr. Bloomfield's friends. Sir Charles Bunbury is said to have warmly expressed his approbation of the poem; "as not only excellent for a farmer's boy, but such as would do honor to any person, whatever his education." Dr. Drake considers it, "as a *rural* and *descriptive poem*, superior to any production since the days of Thomson; and adds that "it wants no reference to its author's uneducated poverty to render its excellences the more striking; they are such as would confer durable fame on the first and most polished poet in the kingdom." This enthusiastic warmth of praise must, however, be received with some allowance. In considering the merit of the poem, there is indeed no occasion to refer to the uneducated poverty of the author; but its excellence

excellence is of a different nature from that of elegance or polish. A better *educated* poet would doubtlessly have produced a more correct and more *polished* poem; though perhaps without any of that sweet simplicity, that close adherence to nature, that vein of true poetic genius, by which *The Farmer's Boy* is distinguished.

Mr. Bloomfield's intrinsic merit, entitles him perhaps to all the success which he has experienced; but we are convinced that, for part of it, he is indebted to fashion. The fashionable world, who are by no means the best qualified to decide on matters of literature and taste, thought proper to patronize the author of *The Farmer's Boy*; and they have thought fit also to patronize a child, under the arrogant appellation of *The Young Roscius*. We do not mean for one moment to insult the talents of Mr. Bloomfield, by *sinking* him to a level with *The Young Roscius*; who, *as a boy*——*merely as a boy*——is certainly clever; but who, as a man, we are confident, will never distinguish himself in his profession. Mr. Bloomfield is a "being of a superior order." He may be justly termed a "favoured bard;" yet, had not a fortunate concurrence of circumstances taken place on his entrance into public life, he, like many other wanderers among the windings of Parnassus, might have carolled forth his "native wood-notes wild," unhonored, unnoticed, and almost unknown.

The first book of *The Farmer's Boy* was very early translated into Latin; the whole was translated into Italian; and, under the title of *Le Valet du Fermier*, a prose translation of it has appeared in French with the

the "*wooden engravings*" as Mr. Lofft *elegantly* denominates them, imitated on copper. As usual, in French translations, the proper names in the poem are strangely metamorphosed; and "*O dear!*" the pathetic exclamation of the fair insane, is ludicrously translated "*O cher!*" instead of *helas!*

It is a curious, though not a singular circumstance relating to this poem, that its author composed the latter part of his *Autumn*, and the whole of his *Winter*, in his head, without committing one line to paper. Mr. Bloomfield says, that, when it was thus prepared, *he had nothing to do but to write it down.* By this mode of composition he studied and completed his *Farmer's Boy* in a garret, among six or seven workmen, without their ever suspecting any thing of the matter. To the credit of Mr. Bloomfield, it should also be mentioned, that, with respect to the publication of the poem, he seemed far less interested, concerning any fame or advantage which he might derive from it to himself, than in the pleasure of giving a printed copy of it, as a tribute of duty and affection to his mother.

About the time that Mr. Bloomfield sent his first effusion to a Newspaper, he wrote another little piece, which his brother George speaks of as *The Sailor's Return*; in which he tried to describe the feelings of an honest *tar*, who, after a long absence, saw his dear native village rising into view. This too obtained a place in the *Poet's Corner*. Robert, however, thinks, that the title of it was *The Soldier's Return*; and that it was occasioned by the arrival of some regiments of British soldiers from remote parts of the globe. The following lines are all which the author recollects:

"Round

"Round Lybia's south point, where from toils so late freed,
Sweet hope cheer'd my soul as we clear'd the rough sea;
I strove, midst the tars to improve the ship's speed;
Nor thought I of ought, but Anna and thee.

"Here comes the dear girl! with kind arms extended
To welcome me!—limbs numb'd with age fain would move,
My cheek feels the offspring of rapture, warm blended
With answering drops:—this the meed of chaste love!

"Rouse the fire——"

There certainly is more of force, and feeling, and the true spirit of poetry, in these lines, than in the *Milkmaid*.

Mr. Lofft has given the following fragment, as a specimen of Mr. Bloomfield's blank verse:——

SUBJECT—*A Harvest Scene: describing Gleaners returned from the Field.*

"————————Welcome the cot's
Warm walls!—thrice welcome rest, by toil endear'd;
Each hard bed softening, healing every care,
Sleep on, ye gentle souls———
Unapprehensive of the midnight thief!
Or if bereft of all with pain acquir'd,
Your fall, with theirs compar'd who sink from affluence,
With hands unus'd to toil, and mind unus'd
To bend, how little felt! how soon repair'd!"

From Mr. Lofft's admission, that he has made "a slight correction in a place or two where the distribution or mechanism of the lines was not exact," we are induced to withold our opinion as to their merit.

After an absence of twelve years, the author of *The Farmer's Boy* revisited his native plains; where he had

had the exalted satisfaction of seeing his mother in health and spirits; and of reviewing, with the feelings of a truly poetical and benevolent mind, the beloved haunts of his youth,

"When nature smil'd, and life itself was young!"

It is not to be supposed that, with a mind organized like that of Bloomfield, an occasion, so hallowed, was suffered to pass over without receiving a tribute from his muse. The following lines, on revisiting the place of his nativity, do ample justice to his feelings:—

"Though winter's frowns had dampt the beaming eye
Through twelve successive summers heav'd the sigh,
The unaccomplished wish was still the same;
Till May in new and sudden glories came!
My heart was rous'd; and fancy on the wing,
Thus heard the language of enchanting spring.—
"Come to thy native groves and fruitful fields!
'Thou know'st the fragrance that the wild-flow'r yields
'Inhale the breeze that binds the purple bud,
'And plays along the margin of the wood.
'I've cloth'd them all, the very woods where thou
'In infancy learn'd'st praise from every bough.
'Would'st thou behold again the vernal day?
'My reign is short;—this instant come away:
'Ere Philomel shall silent meet the morn;
'She hails the green, but not the rip'ning corn.
'Come, ere the pastures lose their yellow flowers:
'Come now; with heart as jocund as the hours."
Who could resist the call?—that, Giles had done,
Nor heard the birds, nor seen the rising sun;
Had not benevolence, with cheering ray,
And greatness stoopt, indulgent to display
Praise which does surely not to Giles belong,
But to the objects that inspir'd his song.

Immediate

Immediate pleasure from those praises flow'd;
Remoter bliss within his bosom glowed!
Now tasted all:—for I have heard and seen
The long-remembered voice, the church, the green;—
And oft by friendship's gentle hand been led
Where many a hospitable board was spread.
There would I name—but each and all can feel,
What the full heart would willingly reveal:
Nor needs be told; that at each season's birth,
Still the enamell'd, or the scorching earth
Gave, as each morn or weary nighs would come,
Ideal sweetness to my distant home:
Ideal now no more;—for, to my view
Spring's promised rose, how admirably true!
The early chorus of the cheerful grove,
Gave point to gratitude; and fire to love.
O memory! shield me from the world's poor strife;
And give those scenes thine everlasting life!"

Stimulated by the unlooked-for success which his *Farmer's Boy* had experienced, Mr. Bloomfield, in the course we believe, of 1801, published a volume of *Rural Tales, Ballads, and Songs*. By this volume, our author fully established his fame as a poet. In his *Ode to Peace*, the change produced by that personified being is thus beautifully depicted:—

"The plunging corpse, with half-clos'd eyes,
No more shall stain the unconscious brine;
Yon pendant gay, that streaming flies,
Around its idle staff shall twine!
Behold! along th' ethereal sky
Her beams o'er conquering navies spread;
Peace! Peace! the leaping sailor's cry,
With shouts that might arouse the dead!"

The Ballad of *Richard and Kate*, possesses merit almost peculiar to itself:——

"Have you forgot, Kate, prithee say,
  How many seasons here we've tarry'd?
'Tis *forty* years this very day,
  Since you and I, *old girl*, were marry'd!
Look out—the sun shines warm and bright,
  The stiles are low, the paths all dry:—
I know you cut your corns last night—
  Come be as free from cares as I!"

They proceed to the fair——

"At length arriv'd amidst the throng,
  Grandchildren bawling hemm'd them round,
And dragg'd them by the skirts along
  Where gingerbread bestrew'd the ground;
And soon the aged couple spy'd
  Their lusty sons and daughters dear,
When Richard thus exulting cried,
  'Didn't I tell you they'd be here!'"

The simple and forcible strokes of nature in the above passages, must be obvious to every reader of genuine taste.

Walter and Jane, and *The Miller's Maid*, are admirably constructed tales. Their diction is smooth and flowing; the incidents are natural, and judiciously arranged; and the interest is never suffered to flag.

An impressive lesson is conveyed in *The Widow to her Hour-Glass*:——

"I've often watch'd thy streaming sand,
  And seen the growing mountains rise,
And often found life's hopes to stand
  On props as weak in wisdom's eyes!

Its

Its conic crown
Still sliding down,
Again heap'd up, then down again:
The sand above more yellow grew,
Like days and years, still filt'ring through,
And mingling joy with pain!"

There is not, however, a more exquisite piece in the whole volume than *Market Night*, which paints, in the liveliest colors, the emotions of an affectionate wife, looking out for the return of her husband, in a dark and stormy night:——

"O guardian spirits! ye that dwell
Where woods, and pits, and hollow ways,
The lone night-traveller's fancy swell
With fearful tales of older days:

"Press round him, guide his willing steed
Thro' darkness, dangers, currents, snows,
Wait where, from sheltring thickets freed
The dreary heath's rude whirlwind blows."

Agitated by alarm and fear, she naturally and feelingly exclaims:——

"Distressing hour! uncertain fate!
O mercy, mercy, guide him home!
Hark! then I heard the distant gate—
Repeat it echo—quickly come!

"One minute now will end my fears,
Or still more wretched must I be!
No—surely Heaven has spared our tears—
I see him cloth'd in snow—'*tis* he!

"Where have you staid?—put down your load—
How have you borne the storm and cold?
What horrors did I not forbode!
That beast is worth his weight in gold."

 The

The rain-drenched husband, exulting in his return to his family, thus expresses his strong emotions of joy :—

" What, all asleep?——so best (he cried)
O, what a night I've travell'd through!
Unseen, unheard, I might have died,
But Heaven has brought me safe to you!

" Dear partner of my nights and days.
That smile becomes thee—let us then
Learn, tho' mishap may cross our ways,
It is not ours to reckon when!"

The following little piece, entitled *Mary's Evening Sigh*, will enable the reader to form a tolerably correct idea of Mr. Bloomfield's amatory style :——

" With lovely pearl the western sky,
Is glowing far and wide.
And yon light golden clouds that fly
So slowly side by side ;
The deepening tints, the arch of light
E'en I with rapture see ;
And sigh, and bless the charming sight
That lures my love from me.

" O hill! that shad'st the valley here,
Thou bear'st on thy green brow,
The only wealth to Mary dear.
And all she'll ever know.
Full in the crimson light I see,
Above thy summit rise
My Edward's form ; he looks to me
A statue in the skies.

" Descend,

Descend, my love, the hour is come;
  Why linger on the hill?
The sun hath left my quiet home,
  But thou canst see him still;
Yet, why a lonely wanderer stray?
  Alone the joy pursue:
The glories of the closing day,
  Can charm thy Mary to.

O Edward when we stroll'd along,
  Beneath the waving corn,
And both confess'd the pow'r of song
  And bless'd the dewy morn:
To thy fond words my heart replied,
  (My presence then could move)
'How sweet with Mary by my side,
  'To gaze and talk of love.'

"Thou art not false—that cannot be!
  Yet I my rivals deem
Each woodland charm, the moss, the tree,
  The silence, and the stream.
If these, my love, detain thee now,
  I'll yet forgive thy stay:
But with to-morrow's dawn, come thou—
  We'll brush the dew away."

In 1804, impressed with the philanthrophic wish of yielding a tribute to the Jennerian system of inoculation, Mr. Bloomfield published a poem in quarto size, entitled, *Good Tidings; or, News from the Farm.* It was with much propriety, dedicated to Dr. Jenner and the members of the Jennerian Society for the extermination of the small-pox.

The subject of this poem is in general a description of the miseries which have been occasioned by the small-pox, and of the ravages which, at times, it had spread

spread over every country; together with the blessings which may be derived from the extermination of this pest from the earth, by the introduction of the cow-pox. It commences with the following interesting description of a blind boy, who had lost his sight by the small-pox:——

"Where's the blind child, so lovely and so fair,
With guileless dimples and with flaxen hair,
That waves in ev'ry breeze? he's often seen
Beside yon cottage wall, or on the green,
With others match'd in spirit and in size,
Health on their cheeks, and rapture in their eyes:
That full expanse of voice, to childhood dear,
Soul of their sports, in duty cherish'd here:
And, hark! that laugh is his, that jovial cry;
He hears the ball and trundling hoop brush by.
And runs the giddy course, with all his might,
A very child in every thing but sight;
With circumscrib'd but not abated pow'rs—
Play! the great object of his infant hours;
In many a game he takes a noisy part,
And shews the native gladness of his heart;
But soon he hears, on pleasure all intent,
The new suggestion and the quick assent;
The grove invites, delight thrills ev'ry breast—
To leap the ditch and seek the downy rest,
Away they start, leave balls and hoops behind,
And one companion leave—the boy is blind.
His fancy paints their distant paths so gay,
That childish fortitude awhile gives way.
He feels his dreadful loss--yet short the pain,
Soon he resumes his cheerfulness again;
Pond'ring how best his moments to employ,
He sings his little songs of nameless joy,
Creeps on the warm green turf for many an hour,
And plucks by chance the white and yellow flow'r,
Smoothing their stems, while resting on his knees,
He binds a nosegay which he never sees;

Along

Along the homeward path then feels his way,
Lifting his brow against the shining day,
And with a playful rapture round his eyes,
Presents a sighing parent with his prize.

"She blest *that* day, which he remembers too,
When he could gaze on heav'n's ethereal blue,
See the young Spring, so lovely to his eyes,
And all the colors of the morning rise—
'When was his work of bitterness begun?
'How came the blindness of your son?'
This prompts full many a tongue to say,
But never till she slowly wipes away
Th' obtruding tear that trembles in her eye
This dagger of a question meets reply:—
'My boy was healthy, and my rest was sound,
'When last year's corn was green upon the ground;
'From yonder town infection found its way;
'Around me putrid dead and dying lay.
'I trembled for his fate; but all my care
'Avail'd not, for he breath'd the tainted air;
'Sickness ensued—in terror and dismay
'I nursed him in my arms both night and day,
'When his soft skin from head to foot became
'One swelling purple sore, unfit to name;
'Hour after hour, when all was still beside,
'When the pale night-light in its socket died
'Alone I sat, the thought still soothes my heart,
'That surely I perform'd a mother' part,
'Watching with anxiety and pain
'Till he might smile and look on me again;
'But that was not to be—ask me no more:
'God keep small-pox and blindness from your door!"

The ravages which the small-pox had made in his own family, rendered the subject peculiarly interesting to the author; and he has not failed of making it highly so to the reader. His description of the manner in which

which his father caught that dreadful disorder, of which he died, is truly affecting, and we much lament that our limits will not suffer us to transcribe it. Indeed the whole of the poem is worthy of perusal.

The admirers of Mr. Bloomfield's writings will be gratified in learning, that he is on the point of adding another wreath to the garland of British poetry, under the modest, but prepossessing title of "*Wild Flowers.*"

In the year 1800, our author continued to follow his trade—that of a ladies' shoemaker; but, from the pecuniary advantages which he derived from his poetical labors, he has, as before stated, realised a comfortable competence, and consequently is no longer necessitated to perform the duties of a mechanic.

In a letter written in the year 1800, Mr. George Bloomfield thus describes and characterises his brother:——"He is of a slender make; of about five feet four inches high; very *dark* complexion.—His mother, who is a very religious member of the church of England, took all the pains she could in his infancy to make him pious: and as his reason expanded, his love of God and man, increased with it. I never knew his fellow for mildness of temper and goodness of disposition. And since I left him, universally is he praised by those who know him best. for the best of husbands and indulgent father, and quiet neighbor."

We can add nothing to so brilliant an eulogium.

JOHN

JOHN PHILIP KEMBLE, Esq.

THE man who has attained the highest rank in his profession, whatever that profession might be, is naturally regarded as of considerable consequence in society. His talents must be of a superior cast, or he would never have been able to soar above all his competitors.

Mr. Kemble, whose theatrical progress we are about to trace, is a striking example of the strength and solidity of intellect, and of the eminent advantages resulting from persevering industry.

Mr. Roger Kemble, his father, who died in the year 1802, at the advanced age of 82, became, very early in life, a traveller in the Thespian car. He was engaged by Mr. Ward, a strolling manager, but who is said to have been a very excellent actor, and to have made a respectable figure on the London stage, during the times of Betterton and Booth. Mr. Kemble married this gentleman's daughter; at length succeeded him in his managerial capacity; and, for many years had the control of one of the most respectable travelling companies in the kingdom. The first time that he ever appeared on the London boards, was in the year

1788, when at the age of 68, he performed the *Miller of Mansfield*, for the benefit of his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Stephen Kemble, at the Hay-Market Theatre.

John Philip was the eldest son of Mr. Roger Kemble. He was born at Preston, in Lancashire, about the year 1757; and received the first rudiments of his education at a school in Staffordshire, called Sedgley-Park. He there acquired a complete grammatical knowledge of the English tongue; after which, about the year, 1770, he was sent to the university of Douay, where he became master of the Greek, Latin, and French languages. His talents were conspicuous at an early period; and his attention to, and progress in his studies, at Douay, were such as procured him several honorary distinctions.

It was the anxious wish of Mr. Roger Kemble, that none of his children should devote themselves to the stage. In this, however, it is well known that his intentions were frustrated. Awaré, perhaps, of the precarious and hazardous nature of his own profession, he parentally longed to see his offspring, move in a more settled sphere. He was, we believe, of the Romish persuasion; and he had purposed that his son John should pass a life of religious study. But the genius of the youth led him irresistibly towards the theatre; and, finding that his wishes, cherished by enthusiasm, were not likely to be repressed, his father yielded; and, in the year 1756, he made his *entré*, at Wolverhampton, in the character of *Theodosius*, in Rowe's tragedy of that title. The success which he experienced was well calculated to fan the flame of juvenile ambition.

It

It is worthy of remark, that just about this period, Garrick retired from the public scene; and though Kemble may never have equalled that great actor, in versatility of powers, it is not paying him too high a compliment, to say, that, in preference to all his competitors, he has the fairest pretensions to be considered as his legitimate successor.

The classical education which Mr. Kemble had received, in addition to his natural genius, was highly in favor of his success. Education, it is true, cannot confer talents; but it elicits, improves, and expands them. It is chiefly to the want of this auxiliary, that we must attribute the present degeneracy of the British stage. With respect to what we conceive to be the requisite studies of an actor, we cannot express ourselves better, than in the words of a contemporary writer, who observes that, "subjoined to a classical education, or, at least, to a proficiency in the Latin and French—an actor must attain a critical intimacy with the powers and beauties of his vernaculer tongue, in all its niceties of grammar and pronunciation, with every varied modulation, and inflexion of voice. The passions, with their effects on the human frame and countenance, must be his never ceasing study; not only in their general and collected forms, but in every minute variation, as they are exhibited by the respective inhabitants of different parts of the globe. To attain a complete progress in this branch of his art, a universal knowledge in history, and an acquaintance with the best masters of painting, both ancient and modern, are requisite. The passions, as before observed, must not be studied *generally*, but *particularly*. The difference of climate, of national character, of bodily

bodily temperament, of education, of situation in life, must all be taken into consideration. History is also necessary to render him acquainted with the customs, manners, modes of salutation, and dresses of different nations: for, though authors and managers may be supposed competent to the settlement of *costume*, the suggestion of an actor, if he be a man of taste and information, is always a valuable addition. Ignorant of history, an actor is wholly incapable of entering into the true spirit of the numerous historical characters which adorn our stage; and, as many of the personages of the drama are borrowed from the pages of romance, that species of literature also claims considerable attention."*

Mr. Kemble, though not, at that period, a finished scholar, according to the above delineation, was, unquestionably, no mean proficient. The correctness of his performances, even at that juvenile age, attested the pains which he had taken. His success in Theodosius, impelled him to appear in the character of Bajazet, another of Rowe's heroes, in which his talents were still more admired.

Leicester was the next place in which he signalized his abilities; and, after a gradual progress of professional repute in Manchester, Liverpool, and York, he proceeded to the sister kingdom, where he joined Mr. Daly's company, in Smock-Alley, Dublin. He made his first appearance at that theatre, as Hamlet, and was particularly noticed in his scene with the players.—Hamlet has ever been a favorite character

* *Vide "Harral's Enquiry into the Requisites of an Actor."*

with

with Mr. Kemble; and, notwithstanding the unrivalled excellence to which he has attained, in his portraiture of the Danish Prince, we have reason to believe, that, to this day, he never attempts the personation, without renewed study. This is an important lesson, worthy of attention from every member of the histrionic profession.

It was the wish of Mr. Daly, to get up Jephson's tragedy of the Count of Narbonne; but, when applied to, it was the opinion of the author, that, in the state which his company then was, it would be impossible for Mr. Daly to accomplish his wish, with any prospect of success. The manager, however, persevered; and, putting the Count into the hands of Mr. Kemble, the author afterwards acknowledged, that his performance of the part was preferable to that of Farren, in London. The piece had a tolerable run, and Mr. Kemble acquired much credit with the public on the occasion.

Our hero was not equally successful in his comic efforts. He performed Sir George Touchwood, when Mrs. Cowley's *Belle's Stratagem* was first represented in Dublin. His exhibition of the part, it seems, was not in unison with the wishes of the manager, who played Doricourt; for, one evening, after the second act, that gentleman told him, that he must exert himself more, and desired that he would take example *after him*. However deficient in spirit Mr. Kemble might have been before the curtain, he displayed a sufficient portion behind; as he immediately changed his dress, and desired the manager to find some other person to finish the character. Daly begged his pardon, and he resumed the part.

 Falstaff

Falstaff was not only witty himself, but was the cause of wit in others. Kemble, though not happy in the art of *exciting* risibility, was much subject to its attacks. In his earlier years, the most trivial incident would derange his tragic phiz. During his first performance in Dublin, of Marc Antony, in Dryden's *All for Love*, he happened to look up, and perceiving a pedantic old figure, who was leaning over the upper box, with a listening trumpet to his ear, he began to smother a laugh. This *half-smothered laugh* was at first construed into *agitation*, it being in the most pathetic scene of the play, where he was surrounded by his wife and children; but, no longer able to contain himself, to the great astonishment of the audience, he burst into a loud and obstreperous laugh, and was a considerable time before he could resume his gravity, so as to conclude the character.

Having performed about two years in Ireland, Mr. Kemble's reputation was so high, that the managers of Drury-lane considered that it would be to their interest to invite him, by the offer of a handsome salary, to take a station worthy of his talents in that venerable asylum of the dramatic muse.

Accordingly, in the year 1778, he made his first appearance on the boards of Old Drury, in the arduous and interesting character of Hamlet. By his person, his manners, and his literary attainments, he was peculiarly fitted for the part. His conception was allowed to be great: his execution was adequate to his judgment; and he was at once acknowledged to be an actor of first-rate merit. We have repeatedly had the pleasure of witnessing Mr. Kemble's performance of this part; and, each successive time, we have enjoyed a fresh

fresh intellectual banquet. If it be not quite all which an ardent and classical fancy is capable of conceiving, it is a truly masterly and impressive performance. The writer of this article is acquainted with a gentleman, a professed admirer of both Kemble and that late celebrated actor, Henderson; and, the distinction which he draws between the respective delineations of Hamlet, by those performers, is, that the former makes him *admire*; the latter made him *feel!* In that impressive soliloquy, "O, that this too, too solid flesh could melt, thaw, and resolve itself into a dew," the genuine tears are said to have "chased each other" down the cheeks of Henderson, while delivering it. The actor, who thus feels himself, will scarcely ever fail of exciting a kindred emotion in his auditors.

In listening to such an anecdote, as this of Henderson, or in witnessing the performances of such an actor as Kemble, what must we think of those inflated, self-created critics, the blockheads of the diurnal press, who, in their bombastic strictures, affect to persuade us, that the boy, Betty, is superior to all the actors of the present day, to Kemble, to Henderson, and even to Garrick himself!——The *comparison* is truly *odious*. As well might we class the prating of a parrot with the divine effusions of Cicero, or the thundering phillipics of Demosthenes!

Mr. Kemble's taste for literature had led him, with a critical eye, to investigate the text of Shakespeare, and his judgment induced him to adopt many variations from that which had formerly been received. His *new-readings*, as they were termed, gave much offence to many critics of that day, and the ear of the public is not even yet fully reconciled to all his innovations.

 Most

Most of them, however are judicious; not one of them is such as to excite contempt, or disgust; and, though some are rather fanciful than correct, we think it must be admitted that, in doubtful cases, an actor is at liberty to exercise his judgment. We do not mean that this admission should apply to the profession in general; but only in cases where the literary pretensions of the actor are such as to entitle his judgment to some deference.

The progress of Mr. Kemble's fame, and the propriety of his general conduct, pointed him out as the most proper person to fill a vacancy which occurred, on the secession of Mr. King, in the year 1788; and he was invested with the stage management of Drury-Lane theatre. He supported this station with judgment, liberality, and spirit, till nearly the close of the season 1796; when, the difficulty of giving due attention to so active an employment, and of supporting, at the same time, the duties of his profession as an actor, added perhaps to some unpleasant circumstances connected with the former capacity, induced him to resign it.

At a subsequent period, he, for a short time, resumed the management; but, previously to the season of 1801, he declined retaining it, unless he were vested with more power than he had formerly possessed. This was promised; but after a few weeks, complaints arose among the performers, respecting the non-payment of their salaries, &c. and Mr. Kemble, with several others, withdrew their services. He then meditated an excursion to Paris; but, the difference in the theatre having been adjusted, through the interference

terference of the Lord Chancellor, he was again induced to resume his situation.

Affairs, however, not going quite right, Mr. Kemble finally quitted Drury-Lane theatre; and, during the season of 1802-3, he went over to the Continent, and passed a few months in the respective capitals of France and Spain.

On his return, in the year 1803, he purchased a sixth share in Covent-Garden theatre; for which it is said he gave upwards of 20,000*l.* In consequence of this arrangement he succeeded Mr. Lewis, as acting manager, and has continued to officiate in that capacity ever since. His first appearance at Covent-Garden, was in the character of Hamlet.

To preserve the thread of our narrative, we omitted to state, in chronological order, that, in the summer of 1793, Mr. Kemble was engaged at the little theatre in the Hay-Market. It was during this season, that Colman's charming operatic piece, *The Mountaineers* was produced; and, to the inimitable acting of Mr. Kemble, as Octavian, it was greatly indebted for its run. Had Mr. Kemble never appeared in any other character, his performance of this was sufficient to establish his fame as an actor of the very first class. In witnessing his portraiture of the forlorn, distracted lover, we beheld as it were a revival of the ancient spirit of chivalry;—that spirit so truly noble, but now recognised only in the pages of romance.

The character was purposely written to afford a display of Mr. Kemble's extraordinary powers; and the effect which it produced reflected equal credit on the writer and the actor.

At

At Drury-Lane, in the winter of 1796, Mr. Colman produced another piece, in which the principal character was also written with a view to Mr. Kemble's style of acting. We allude to *The Iron Chest*; which, as our readers will recollect, experienced decisive condemnation on the boards of Drury, though it was afterwards revived with considerable *eclat* at the little theatre. Mr. Colman, in a preface of much point and asperity, attributed the damnation of his piece to the mismanagement of Mr. Kemble; and, as that gentleman, at the time, laboured under a severe cold and hoarseness, it is probable that some part of the public disapprobation might be occasioned by his deficiency. Certain it is, however, that notwithstanding the striking and extraordinary merit which *The Iron Chest* possesses, in detached scenes, it is, as a whole, in point of fable, one of the most unconnected and unsatisfactory pieces ever produced.

During the period of Mr. Kemble's first management at Drury-Lane theatre, he strenuously exerted himself to correct the vitiated taste of the public, by the revival of many excellent old pieces, in several of which he made judicious alterations.

Mr. Kemble is not known merely as an actor. In the year 1786, he produced a farce, called *The Projects*; in 1788, another, called *The Pannel*, taken from the comedy of *It's well it's no worse*; and, in 1789, *The Farm House*, taken from *The Custom of the Manor*. He altered Mrs. Behn's comedy of *The Rover*, and called it *Love in many Masks*, in 1790; and he translated, from the French, a musical romance called *Lodoiska*, which was acted with great applause in 1794, and still deservedly continues to be a favorite piece.

In

In addition to his performances of most of the leading characters of our old tragedies, he may be mentioned as having been the entire support of many of the new pieces; particularly *Julia; or the Italian Lover; The Wheel of Fortune; The Stranger,* &c. and his delineation of the character of *De Monfort*, in Miss Baillie's condemned tragedy of that title, was considered as one of the most masterly and finished stage portraitures of the day.

Mr. Kemble, *sometimes*, but we believe *very rarely*, has ventured into the *fascinating* path of Opera. The following anecdote is related of him, on this subject; for the authenticity of which, however, though likely enough to have happened, we cannot vouch. While rehearsing his part in *Richard Cœur de Lion*, and attempting his song, Mr. Shaw, the leader of the band, exclaimed:—" O, Sir, how shockingly you *murder* time!"-- "if I do," replied Mr. Kemble, "I am not so merciless as you, who are always *beating* time!"

In parts of the heroic kind, when a commanding energy is the essential feature, in philosophic declamation, or in parts of dignified tenderness, he has perhaps never been excelled. His comedy certainly does not rank with his tragic exertions; but, when good sense, liberal spirit, gentlemanly manners, and satyrical pleasantry combine, he fully satisfies the expectation of criticism.

Whether on or off the stage, Mr. Kemble never loses sight of his profession. While performing, he is attentive to the minutest circumstance which relates to the character that he has assumed, whether it belong to the character in itself, or to the sentiments expres-

sed

sed by any others of the scene. When off the stage, he is vigilantly engaged in the pursuit of whatever may be connected with the history or illustration of his art.

In early life, Mr. Kemble published a collection of poems, which he has since been very solicitous to suppress; but without reason, as, though juvenile productions, they are by no means discreditable to his talents or his taste.—He possesses a deep, and an extensive knowledge of dramatic literature; and, at a great expence, he has formed a collection of the dramatic works of British genius, which in all probability is not to be equalled in the kingdom.

Mr. Kemble, in the year 1787, married the widow of Mr. Brereton, the actor. This lady, whose maiden name was Hopkins, was formerly an actress. Her mother was also on the stage; and for several seasons her father officiated as prompter. Her sister was likewise a favorite actress, who having retired from the stage, in consequence of marriage, she became the representative of her characters, and consequently advanced in public favor. Miss Hopkins afterwards married Mr. Brereton, who died in 1786; in the year following, as above stated, she became the wife of Mr. Kemble; and, in 1796, she retired from the stage. Mr. Kemble, we believe, has no family, but enjoys much domestic happiness in the connubial state.

THE

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FRANCIS EARL OF MOIRA.

FRANCIS RAWDON HASTINGS, Earl of Moira, Baron Rawdon, in the county of Downe; and Baron Rawdon, of Rawdon, in Yorkshire, was born on the 7th of December, 1754. He was created a British Peer on the 4th of March, 1783; on the death of his uncle, the late Earl of Huntindon, by permission of his Majesty, February 16, 1790, he took the name of Hastings; and succeeded his father, John, the late Earl of Moira, on the 20th of June, 1793.

The noble family, from which the subject of this memoir is descended, is of great antiquity, as appears from the title deed of their estate, granted by William the Conqueror, part of which estate, with the mansion-house, the Earl of Moira still enjoys. The following lines are taken from the original deed, mentioned in *Weaver's* FUNERAL MONUMENTS:—

"I William, King, the thurd yere of my reign,
Give to Paulyn Roydon, *Hope* and *Hope-towne*,
With all the bounds, both up and downe,
From heven to yerthe, from yerthe to hel,
For the and thyne, there to dwel,
As truly as this king right is myn;

For

For a crosse-bowe and a arrow,
When I sal come to hunt on Yarrow.
And in token that this thing is sooth,
A bit the whyt wax with my tooth,
Before Meg, Maud, and Margery,
And my thurd sonne, Henry."

The illustrious character, of whose public conduct we are about to exhibit a cursory sketch, has, throughout life, distinguished himself by a meritorious display of courage and talent. Even in his youth he gave indications of that cool intrepidity which has marked every subsequent period of his career; and his early admiration of the heroes of the Grecian and Roman states, afforded a favorable presage of what might be expected from his maturer years.

Having enjoyed the advantages of a regular classical education, Lord Rawdon made the tour of the Continent; and thus, to the solid acquisitions which he before possessed, he added a polish by which his manners have ever since been distinguished.

About the period when war commenced with America, his lordship entered into the army, and embarked with his regiment for the new continent, where he took a very active part throughout the whole of the succeeding contest.

At the memorably-fatal battle of Bunker's Hill, in 1775, Lord Rawdon served as a lieutenant in the grenadiers. Excepting seven, the whole of his company was cut to pieces; and he behaved with such distinguished gallantry as to obtain the unqualified approbation of General Burgoyne. That officer, though not in the action, was a spectator of it; and considering the young soldier's conduct as an indication of his future

future glory, he introduced into his dispatch to England the following remarkable expression:——"*Lord Rawdon has this day stamped his fame for life!*"

In this disastrous action, the loss sustained by the British troops, considering the numbers that were engaged, was great beyond example. Eighteen officers and upwards of two hundred men were killed on the spot; and sixty-eight officers and seven hundred and fifty-eight men were wounded; many of whom died, or were completely disabled from farther service. General Burgoyne, in one of his letters to his nephew, Lord Stanley, speaks of it as "one of the greatest scenes of war that can be conceived." "If we look to the height," says he, "Howe's corps ascending the hill in the face of entrenchments, and in a very disadvantageous ground, was much engaged; and, to the left, the enemy pouring in fresh troops by thousands, over the land; and in the arm of the sea our ships and floating batteries cannonading them: straight before us a large and a noble town in one great blaze: the church steeples, being of timber, were great pyramids of fire above the rest; behind us the church-steeples and heights of our own camp, covered with spectators of the rest of our army which was not engaged; the hills round the country covered with spectators; the enemy all anxious suspense; the roar of cannon, mortars, and musquetry; the crush of churches, ships upon the stocks, and whole streets falling together in ruins to fill the ear; the storm of the redoubts, with the objects above described, to fill the eye; and the reflections that perhaps a defeat was a final loss to the British empire in America, to fill the mind, made the whole a picture and a complication of horror and importance

importance beyond any thing that ever came to my lot to be witness to."

Such was the scene in which our hero's maiden sword was fleshed!

Lord Rawdon next distinguished himself at the storming of Fort Clinton. His extraordinary merit entitled him to a more than usually rapid advancement in his profession; and as early as the year 1778, he was appointed adjutant-general to the British forces, under the command of Sir Henry Clinton, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the army. In this capacity his bravery was equalled only by his activity and judgment, which were essentially serviceable during the perilous retreat of the English army through the Jerseys to Philadelphia and New York, and likewise in the battle of Monmouth. This retreat, or march, has been much admired by military men; as, had not Sir Henry Clinton anticipated an attack, by making one, his defeat would have been certain.

After this affair, Lord Rawdon embarked with the troops for Charlestown; and, at the siege of that place, in the spring of the year 1780, he so ably distinguished himself, that, notwithstanding his youth, he was appointed to a separate command. The scene of his duty was South Carolina, where he successfully maintained his ground against an enemy of superior force, until the arrival of Lord Cornwallis, when he became subordinate to that general. At the battle of Camden, on the 16th of August, 1780, the division which Lord Rawdon commanded led the van, when one of the most decisive victories obtained during the whole progress of the war, was achieved by the British arms. The loss of the enemy was very considerable; a number

ber of colours, and seven pieces of brass cannon, all their artillery that were in the action, with all their equipage, were taken. In killed and wounded their loss amounted to nearly two thousand. Lord Cornwallis, having marched northward with the principal part of the forces, Lord Rawdon was left behind, with a small division of the army, in South Carolina.

After the action at Guildford, in the spring of 1781, the American general Green, being obliged to retreat before the King's army, turned his views towards South Carolina; as the more vulnerable point in the absence of Lord Cornwallis. With this idea, on the 19th of April, he came before Camden, where Lord Rawdon was stationed. The defeat of the rebels which ensued, is thus related by Stedman, in his "*History of the American War*:—

"The force which he (General Green) carried with him amounted, according to the American accounts, to nine hundred and fifty, but, as we were informed, to about fifteen hundred continentals, and two hundred and fifty North Carolina militia. The garrison at Camden, under Lord Rawdon, amounted to something more than eight hundred men. Some well affected militia, that came from a distance to offer their services at this season of danger, were necessarily, though reluctantly, dismissed, on account of a scarcity of provisions: but, by arming every person already in the garrison capable of bearing arms, even musicians and drummers, he mustered an effective force of about nine hundred men. General Green, whatever his force might be, thought it insufficient for storming the British works, or even regularly investing them. After various changes of position, he at length retired to Hobkirk's

 Hill,

Hill, about two miles from the British lines, and there encamped, with an intention, it was supposed, of waiting for the junction of Colonel Lee, with his legion, and Marion, with his militia, who were then acting at some distance in the eastern parts of the province. Whilst the American army lay at Hobkirk's Hill, information was brought to Camden that General Green had detached part of his militia to bring up his heavy baggage and cannon, which, for some cause or other, had been sent off some days before; and, as Lee and Marion had not yet joined, Lord Rawdon thought this the proper time for an attack, in the absence of the militia, and before the coming up of the cannon.

"Accordingly, at nine in the morning of the 25th of April, he marched out with all the force he could muster, and by making a circuit, and keeping close to the edge of a swamp, under cover of the woods, happily gained the left flank of the enemy undiscovered. In that quarter the American camp was the most assailable, because there the ascent of the hill was the easiest; but the impenetrable swamp that covered the approach to it, had freed the enemy from apprehension of an attack on that side. In this fancied state of security the driving in of their picquets gave them the first alarm of the advance of the British army, which moved on to the attack in the following order:—The sixty-third regiment, supported by the volunteers of Ireland, formed the right; the King's American regiment, supported by Captain Robertson's detachment, the left; and the New York volunteers the centre of the British line. The South Carolina regiment and the cavalry were in the rear of the whole, and seemed a corps of reserve, or observation.

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"The enemy, although apparently surprised, and, at first, in some confusion, formed with great expedition, and met the attack with resolution and bravery. Their first line consisted wholly of continental troops, the Virginia brigade being on the right, and the Maryland brigade on the left. Their artillery arrived just as the action began, and was posted in the centre. Their second line was formed entirely of militia. General Green, after viewing the advance of the British troops, and the narrow front which they presented, was so confident of success, that, with a view of rendering it more complete, and hemming them in on every side, he made an alteration in his first disposition. The right of the Virginia, and the left of the Maryland brigades, were ordered to take the British troops in flank, while the remainder of these two brigades marched down the hill to attack them in front; and, in the mean time, Lieutenant Colonel Washington, with the cavalry, was detached to fall upon their rear. Had these several attacks succeeded, undoubtedly nothing but ruin awaited the British army: but Lord Rawdon, discovering the enemy's design, quickly extended his front, by bringing forward the Irish volunteers, and forming them into line. The Americans who descended the hill in front, although they fought for some time with great bravery, and were well supported by a destructive fire of grape-shot from their cannon, could not long withstand the impetuosity of the assailants. Being compelled to retire, they were pursued by the British troops to the top of the hill. Lord Rawdon, having gained the summit of the eminence, and silenced the American cannon, which were immediately drawn off, was enabled to bring the

remainder of his force into action, and, at length, put to rout the whôle American army. The continentals several times rallied, and returned to the charge, but were as often broken and put to flight. In the mean time, Washington, with his dragoons, having got into the rear of the British troops, had made a few stragglers prisoners, and exacted paroles from some British officers who lay wounded in the field. When the event of the day turned out different from his expectations, he was fortunate to discover it just in time to make good his retreat. Indeed the Americans were so greatly superior in cavalry, that Lord Rawdon, after ordering a pursuit, did not think fit to continue it farther than three miles. General Green retreated to Rugely's Mills, about twelve miles off, and then encamped. He was indebted to accident for the safety of his cannon. In the beginning of the retreat they were run down a steep, among some brush-wood, which concealed them from the British troops, as they passed in the heat of pursuit, and, before their return, they were carried off by Washington's cavalry. According to accounts, said to be taken from Lord Rawdon's statement, the Americans lost in this action upwards of five hundred men: of these about one hundred were made prisoners, and the rest either killed or wounded. But General Green estimates his loss much lower: he makes it amount only to eighteen killed, one hundred and eight wounded, and one hundred and thirty-six missing; but, at the same time admits, not without some degree of inconsistency, that some of the missing were killed, and others wounded. It was a hard-fought action, and the victory was not bloodless on the part of the conquerors: although thirty-eight only were killed, their whole

 loss,

loss, including the wounded and missing, amounted to two hundred and fifty-eight, a number which, in the present perilous state of the province, could not be well spared. One officer only was amongst the slain, but eleven were wounded."

The judicious historian above quoted, observes that "had Lord Rawdon, instead of marching out to meet the enemy, remained in his works, such was the superiority of Green, particularly in cavalry, that he must have reduced his Lordship, in a short time, to the necessity of surrendering through want of provisions. The quick and marked decision with which he acted on this, as he had done on former occasions, formed a very general presage that he was one day to rank with the great military commanders, though so enviable a distinction is not to be attained without the happiest union of courage and genius."

Lord Rawdon, having given over the pursuit, returned to Charlestown; and, from the declining state of English affairs in America, a general retreat became necessary. Lord Cornwallis had returned to South Carolina; and, it being found expedient to evacuate that province, the conduct of the retreat devolved on Lord Rawdon, owing to the indisposition of Sir Henry Clinton, the commander-in-chief. To the unremitting exertions of his Lordship, and to his animating conduct, may be attributed in a great measure, the spirit and perseverance of the men, in bearing up against the almost unprecedented hardships and privations by which they were assailed. Soon after this, at a period when his country stood most in need of his services, he was attacked by a dangerous indisposition, originating in the inclemency of the climate, and was at length compelled

compelled to retire from the scene of action, in which he had so much distinguished himself. On his passage from America, the packet in which he had embarked was taken by the Glorieuse, and sent into Brest, whence, after being detained a prisoner for a short time, he returned to England. Not long after his arrival, he was created a peer of Great Britain, as an honorary acknowledgment of his services. On the death of his uncle, the Earl of Huntingdon, he assumed the name of Hastings, and succeeded to the estates of that noble family.

His Lordship's military talents had met with the deserved approbation of his country; and, having attained the rank of major-general, he was appointed to the command of a body of troops encamped near Southampton, which, in conjunction with a corps of French emigrants, was destined to reinforce the royalists of Brittany. This was about the time of his father's death, when he became Earl of Moira, and a peer of each of the sister kingdoms.

The original destination of the force alluded to having been altered, his Lordship received fresh orders, agreeably to which he embarked for Flanders, for the purpose of strengthening the British army in that country. He proceeded to Ostend, where he effected a debarkation in the face of a powerful enemy, who, impressed with the idea that the number of troops under his Lordship's command was far more formidable than it really was, did not venture to attack him. Lord Moira, profiting by the illusion, commenced his march to join the Duke of York, without baggage or artillery. The enemy hung upon his rear with a numerous army, commanded by one of the first generals of the age, and

harassed

harassed him exceedingly; but he at length succeeded in effecting a junction with his Royal Highness, whose situation had become extremely critical.

Lord Moira did not remain long in Flanders; but, having accomplished the object of his expedition, he returned to England, and for some time continued to hold a command at Southampton.

In the summer of 1795, his Lordship resumed the command of a body of British troops encamped on the road to Rumsey, near the former place of rendezvous. On this occasion several emigrant corps were likewise assembled, for the avowed purpose of invading the republican shores. Among these were the corps of Hervilly, Hector, Dreusence, La Chatu, and five hundred artillery men, under the command of M. Raetalier, the train of artillery consisting of sixty twenty-four pounders. The result of this assemblage was the ill-fated expedition to Quiberon, which, notwithstanding the extensive military knowledge of some of the members who then composed the administration, will remain, in the annals of that period, a monument of ill-digested and ill-conducted enterprise. On this subject, however, Earl Moira is fully exonerated from every particle of blame. The part which he acted was that of mere obedience to the government. A defalcation on the part of some of the emigrant corps was obvious in the engagements which took place; nor can that be matter of surprise, when it is considered that many of the troops of which they were composed were enlisted from prisons in this country. Numbers of these felt no interest whatever in the cause which they engaged to support, unless it were to wish for and promote its failure, as they enlisted merely for the

purpose

purpose of obtaining their liberty. Added to the defalcation of the emigrants—a circumstance which ought to have been seen and provided against—the British detachment, amounting to three thousand men, under General Graham, was driven by a tempest far from the scene of action; and Lord Moira, who had had no concern in planning the undertaking, had the distress of witnessing the hard fate of his friends. He had the pain of seeing many of the members of the ancient aristocracy of France, whose talents and virtues had gained his friendship and esteem, consigned to inevitable destruction. Among the lamented sufferers on this occasion was the gallant Count de Sombrieul, whose melancholy end must ever be deplored with tears.

Lord Moira retained his command at Southampton until the month of August, 1795, when the late General Sir Ralph Abercrombie having been invested with the command of a large body of troops intended to act in the West Indies, on the arrival of that officer at Southampton, his Lordship resigned, and was not again employed during the remainder of the war.

In the course of 1803, when the preparations of the French seemed to indicate their intention of executing their threats of invasion, the cabinet cast their eyes upon Earl Moira, as a fit officer to hold the important situation of commander-in-chief in Scotland. No proposal could have been more generally satisfactory to the nation. His Lordship readily accepted the charge; and, by his conciliating manners, his superior talents, and distinguished virtues, soon gained general confidence and esteem in that division of the British empire. He continued in this command till the recent change in the state of public affairs, when his Lordship was

was called to employments still more important. His Majesty has been pleased to appoint him to a seat in the cabinet, and also to the Master Generalship of the Ordnance. By his birth, talents, and principles he is entitled to the former; and by his military knowledge he is particularly well-qualified for the latter.

We cannot in this place refrain from noticing the strange spirit of persecution which has manifested itself among the members of the new administration, relative to the minor arrangements of their respective offices. Men of small salaries, whose places did not entitle them to be pensioned, have been dismissed from many of them, without any fault on their part, and without any provision. From the liberality and nobleness of mind which have hitherto distinguished Lord Moira, we are much surprised that he should have sanctioned some of the late dismissals, and consequent appointments at the board of ordnance. On these occasions there ought to be a sort of understood etiquette, which should prevent even the semblance of harshness.

In glancing at the parliamentary conduct of Lord Moira, we cannot but feel much pleasure. It has been uniformly marked by consistency, independence, and patriotism. His manly deportment, upon every occasion in his legislative capacity, as well in this country as in Ireland, evinces that his firmness as a statesman is equal to his bravery as a soldier. There is a distressed class of people who are now looking up to his benevolent exertions with the utmost anxiety. We allude to the unfortunate debtors, now pining in the different gaols of the country, whose means prevent them from satisfying the just demands of their creditors.

ditors. His Lordship's former endeavors for their relief will remain upon our parliamentary records as so many monuments of his philanthropy, and though he has publicly stated that his present avocations will not suffer him to bring forward that permanent measure for meliorating the law between debtor and creditor, which he has long contemplated, we are satisfied that he will not abandon his generous intention.

Lord Moira's private virtues are as conspicuous as his public ones. His means are large, yet his fortune has been more injured by an extensive exercise of benevolence, than that of any other eminent character of the present day. Whenever individual merit has fallen within the circle of his observation, uninfluenced by the spirit of party, and viewing that merit through the medium of general philanthropy, he has never withholden the patronage which it was in his power to bestow. When relief has not been within the scope of his means, he has softened the hardship of disappointment by the kindest marks of friendship and attention.

With a character so honorable and so exalted as that of Lord Moira, it cannot be matter of surprise that his Lordship's access to the chief branches of the royal family should be easy, or that he should always have enjoyed their highest confidence and esteem. His being engaged by the Duke of York to attend him in an affair of honor with Colonel Lennox, is a sufficient proof of the estimation in which he was holden by his Royal Highness. The Prince of Wales too has, on many public occasions, evinced the strongest attachment to his Lordship, and we have every reason to believe that the friendship is mutual.

Towards

Towards the close of the year 1804, Lord Moira formed a hymeneal union with the amiable and wealthy Countess of Loudon, who has recently yielded him an increase of happiness, by the birth of a daughter.

From the appointment of such men as Lord Moira to public stations, the nation has every thing to hope, and, we doubt not, that its expectations will be fully realised.

JAMES HEATH, Esq.

Engraver to His Majesty.

THE interests of literature, and the fine arts, are so much indebted to the imitative productions of the engraver, that a niche in the temple of fame may well be claimed for one of the first graphic artists of the age. Engraving has been justly considered as the right hand of literature, without which, in an infinite degree, the dissemination of correct instruction in the most important walks of science and of general knowledge, would be so maimed and disfigured as to become unintelligible and inexplicable, however powerfully delineated by verbal description only. If aught, therefore, of public estimation or gratitude be yet attached to the pursuits of literary investigation, whenever this her fellow-laborer in the field of enquiry is found as her attendant, a portion of that mental cordial is surely hers. Engraving is to the painter what printing is to the writer. They are both capable of multiplying, *ad infinitum*, the faithful copies of their originals, and of thus extending the fame of the first artists. The history of the past or present times, domestic or foreign; the *costume* of various countries, ancient or modern; the scenes of the greatest interest to mankind; the phenomena of the elements: and, in short,

short, the whole scope of natural objects tangible by the imitative arts, this accurate delineator can bind down to the service and gratification of the present, and assign them over in perpetuity to the use of future generations, unabated in their value, and with an effect that will stand the test of ages. The character, the grace, the sentiment of the human form, and the mind that actuates, whether finished by the pencil of the graces, or distorted by natural imperfections, are alike within the powers of this art to perpetuate and record.

Mr. Heath, whose numerous and valuable productions have materially exalted the British school of engraving, was born on the 19th of April, 1757, and at the age of fourteen was articled to Mr. Collyer, a celebrated engraver of that day. His early proficiency was remarkable, and gave indication of future excellence. During his pupilage, he copied several of Bartolozzi's engravings, and others, with pen and ink, so closely as to deceive at first sight even the artists themselves.

For some years Mr. Heath was employed by publishers of magazines and other periodical works; and in those humble and toilsome exertions of his art he acquired considerable celebrity.

His first large undertaking was commenced under the auspices of that liberal promoter of the arts, the late Alderman Boydell; and to his connexion with that gentleman may probably be ascribed a portion of the eminence which he has attained. The work alluded to was a representation of the riots in Broad-street, in the memorable and sanguinary year of 1780, and it

was an object of regret that so fine an engraving should present a subject so disgraceful to the nation.

Mr. Heath continued to advance in his profession; and in the year of Sir Joshua Reynold's death, he had the honor of being elected one of the six Associates of the Royal Academy, his diploma being the last which was signed by that ornament to the arts and to his country. In the spring of 1796, the long-expected print from Copley's painting of the death of Major Pearson, was published by Alderman Boydell, who paid Mr. Heath the sum of three thousand pounds for engraving it. This, we believe, is the largest and perhaps the finest historical engraving that was ever executed by a British artist.

The Dead Soldier, from the celebrated picture by Wright, of Derby, which was so much admired in the exhibition of 1792, was engraved by our artist, and was published about the year 1797 or 1798.

Mr. Heath, as joint proprietor with the Messrs. Boydells and Thompson, published an engraving of the late General Washington, a short time before the death of that great man, which event occasioned a considerable demand for the print. The picture from which this engraving was made was painted for the late Marquis of Lansdowne, by that very excellent portrait painter Gabriel Stuart, a native of America, and, while he was in England, one of the pupils of Benjamin West, Esq. The figure is a whole length, standing, in the character of a senator, and in the act of speaking. It has been remarked by the critics, that when people *speak*, they generally *open their mouths.* General Washington's lips, however, are closed; but,

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in every other respect, the figure is eloquence personified, and commands the most respectful attention. To the merits of a very masterly and elegant taste in the application of his lines, Mr. Heath has added that of producing a silvery clearness of effect in his prints, which diffuses a cheerfulness over them, and renders them extremely grateful to the eye in the minute examination of his works. In the present instance, however, he has endangered that prominent feature in his style of engraving, by overloading his dark draperies and shadowed parts with lines, which, howsoever tastefully directed, are out of all proportion too strong and heavy for the objects on which they are applied.

The portrait of that celebrated foreigner, Mallet du Pan, is another of Mr. Heath's engravings. The original is from the pencil of Rigaud, and appeared in the Exhibition of 1799. The figure is represented sitting, and in the employment of writing. Thought is implanted on his character, but it is not perplexed, nor has it the appearance of affected study, which, in a picture, may border so nearly upon stupidity, as to be taken for it. Here it is reflection in full possession of its subject, awaiting only the embellishment of that style with which his strong conceptions are always found to be clothed. Neither is it the calculating countenance of a broker in his counting-house, but of him who holds the pen of a ready writer, on the most important interests of mankind. Mr. Heath has executed this portrait in the dotted manner, and has produced in it one of those instances which stamp high respectability on a mode of engraving that is considerably limited in its powers. The print has great clearness and firmness in its effect; possesses a correctness

of outline, which secures it from all animadversion on that head, and preserves a very faithful likeness of the original. On the whole, however, it has somewhat of harshness in its detailed parts.

A portrait of the late Lord Nelson, which was engraved some time before his death, has recently been in great demand. Mr. Heath is at present employed on the same subject; Mr. West and he intending conjointly to publish an engraving of his Lordship. The proposals are already before the public.

An engraving of Master Betty, *alias* the Young Roscius, from a painting of Northcote, has either been very recently published, or is on the eve of making its appearance. The original was in the Exhibition of 1805, and represents the youth in the character of Hamlet. For the execution of this print Mr. Heath is to receive the sum of eight hundred guineas.

Our artist has been engaged, for some years, in furnishing decorations, from the pencil of Stothard, for a superb edition of Shakespeare.

Mr. Heath, who has realised a very handsome fortune by the exercise of his profession, has been twice married. By his first wife he had a son, George, who is now studying for the bar, of which his abilities hold forth a pleasing promise of future ornament.

About twenty-three years ago, Mr. Heath married his second wife, Miss Mary Phillipson, daughter of Thomas Phillipson, Esq. who held till his death a highly respectable situation under the Lord Chancellor, and was succeeded in it by his son, James Phillipson, Esq. who still enjoys it.

By his second wife, Mr. Heath has issue a son and three daughters. His second son, Charles, is learning

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his father's profession, and seems to inherit his father's talents.

Mr. George Corbould, a nephew of Mrs. Heath, is also under articles to this artist, and promises to attain great excellence in his profession.

Among the other pupils of Mr. Heath may be mentioned Mr. Ridley, who excels in the dotting style of portrait engraving.

LORD

LORD HOOD.

"MANY are the heroes of the dark rolling sea;" but among the existing naval commanders of the present age, we know of none that is more entitled to honorable notice than Samuel Lord Viscount Hood, Admiral of the Red Squadron, Governor of Greenwich Hospital, &c.

This respected veteran, elder brother to Admiral Lord Bridport, is the son of a clergyman, who officiated many years as vicar of Butleigh, in Somersetshire, and afterwards of Thorncombe, Devon. Mr. Hood was not originally intended for the sea; but his inclination tending that way, he at length succeeded in wringing from his parent his " slow consent" to embark in the perilous service of the navy. He accordingly began his career in the year 1740, on board the Romney, under the care of Commodore Smith, then commander-in-chief on the Newfoundland station. This officer, who afterwards sat as president at the court-martial which was holden on Admiral Byng, was familiarly known by the appellation of *Tom of ten thousand.* When a lieutenant on board the Gosport, a French frigate, with whose government we were then at peace, in sailing from Plymouth, passed him without lowering her topsails. The captain of the Gosport was on shore, and Mr. Smith, fearless of the consequences, fired

fired into the French ship, and compelled her to pay the customary homage. Complaint was immediately made, on the part of the Frenchman, in consequence of which Lieutenant Smith was tried by a court-martial, and broke. His conduct, however, was so acceptable to the nation at large, that, on the following day, he was promoted to the rank of post-captain, without passing through the intermediate gradation of commander. He was subsequently advanced to be Rear Admiral of the Blue, and died, universally respected, on the 28th of August, 1762.

Under this gallant officer Mr. Hood so frequently distinguished himself, as a midshipman, that in October, 1746, while commanding a squadron on the coast of Scotland, during the rebellion, Commodore Smith rewarded his services with a lieutenancy. On this appointment he was removed into the Winchelsea, of 20 guns, which, in the winter of 1746, engaged and captured a French frigate of superior force. In the course of the action, which was very spirited, lieutenant Hood received a wound. In 1748 he removed into the Princess Louisa, then bearing Admiral Watson's flag. He proceeded with that officer to Louisburg; and, when peace was restored, he returned with him to England.

In 1754, Mr. Hood was appointed commander of the Jamaica sloop, then stationed at the Bahama Islands; and, in the following year, he joined Lord Keppel in Hampton Road, Virginia. In the course of 1755, a putrid fever, of which upwards of two hundred seamen died, raged with great violence in the fleet which was then under the command of Admiral Boscawen, at Halifax. Captain Hood, who was at South Carolina,

Carolina, immediately entered as many supernumeraries as he could possibly accommodate at sea, and carried them without delay to the Admiral. For this seasonable supply, suggested by a happy presence of mind, he received the cordial thanks of Admiral Watson.

Our officer, in 1756, was appointed by Commodore Holmes to be his captain in the Grafton; and having been present in the action off Louisburg with a French squadron, he returned with that officer to England towards the close of the same year. On his arrival he had the satisfaction of finding that, during his absence, he had been promoted to the rank of post-captain. The rapidity of Captain Hood's advancement in the service is remarkable, and affords an incontestible proof of the assiduity and usefulness of his talents.

The first ship which he commanded, as post-captain, was the Torbay, to which he was appointed in January, 1757: in the month of March following he commanded the Tartar; and, in April, he removed into the Antelope, of 50 guns. In the following month, being on a cruise off the coast of France, he fell in with the Aquilon, a French ship of 48 guns and 450 men. After a running fight of two hours, Captain Hood drove her ashore on the rocks in Audierne Bay, about two leagues to the southward of Brest, where she was totally lost, having had thirty men killed and thirteen wounded in the engagement. During the action, one of the midshipmen, a spirited young man of the name of Murray, had both his legs shot away. He was immediately carried down to the surgeon; but, while his wounds were dressing, hearing his comrades above give three cheers, an idea that the enemy had struck rallied the ebbing spirit of his existence in the midst of

of his agony, and, with the unsubdued fortitude of a British sailor, he waved his hand in triumph, and expired.

Captain Hood was appointed, in 1758, to the Vestal; and early in 1759 he sailed in her, with the squadron under Admiral Holmes, for New York. On the 21st of February, he had the good fortune to fall in with the Bellona, a French frigate, proceeding to France from Martinico, with an express from the governor of that island. A chace immediately commenced, and continued seven hours before he was able to close with his antagonist, who being far superior in size and weight of metal, as well as in the number of her crew, a desperate action took place, which lasted upwards of four hours. The enemy then surrendered, having only her foremast, without either yard or topmast, standing. The slaughter on board the French ship was very considerable, more than thirty of her crew lying dead on the deck when the lieutenant of the Vestal took possession of her, exclusive of about twelve which the enemy had disincumbered themselves of during the action, by throwing them into the sea. The Vestal had only five men killed and twenty-two wounded; but was very materially damaged, all her top-masts having gone over the side when she brought to, after the enemy struck; and, had not the weather proved remarkably fine, the lower masts must have followed them. Captain Hood was consequently compelled to make the best of his way into port, where he safely arrived with his prize on the 2d of March.

During the remainder of the year, Captain Hood's ship was attached, with other frigates, to Rear Admiral Rodney's fleet, sent to bombard Havre-de-Grace.

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He was afterwards employed for two years on the coast of Ireland; and during the remaining three years of the war, he served in the Mediterranean under Sir Charles Saunders. In 1768, he hoisted his broad pendant in the Romney, as commander-in-chief on the Boston station. In the beginning of 1771, on the expectation of a rupture with Spain, relative to the Falkland Islands, he was appointed to the Royal William, of 84 guns; but that dispute being accommodated, the Royal William was put out of commission, and Captain Hood was not again employed till 1774, when he was appointed to command the Marlborough of 74 guns, one of the guardships stationed at Portsmouth. Having retained this command for the usual term of three years, he was, in February, 1778, appointed to succeed the late Admiral Gambier, as Commissioner of Portsmouth Dock-yard. His Majesty, having repaired to Portsmouth in the month of May following, for the purpose of reviewing the ships ready for sea, he was pleased to advance Captain Hood to the rank of a Baronet, by patent bearing date on the 19th of that month.

Sir Samuel quitted this civil station of commission on being promoted, in the succeeding September, to the rank of Rear Admiral of the Blue. Thus, after forty years of arduous and faithful service did this distinguished officer attain the professional rank in which an ampler scope would be allowed for a display of that nautical skill and experience which he had derived from no common sources, and which he had gained with no inconsiderable share of peril and fatigue.

Towards the conclusion of the American war, in the winter of 1780, he hoisted his flag on board the

Barfleur,

Barfleur, and sailed with a squadron to the West Indies.

Almost immediately after his arrival he was engaged, under Sir George Rodney, in the bloodless enterprise against the Dutch Island of St. Eustatia.

Towards the end of April, 1781, intelligence having been received by the commander-in-chief, that the Count de Grasse was daily expected to arrive from France with a reinforcement, Sir Samuel Hood was detached, with Rear Admiral Drake, and thirteen ships of the line, afterwards joined by four others, the whole, with the exception of two or three, that were then on the West India station, to intercept and attack the French admiral. The force of the enemy was understood to be ten or twelve ships of the line; but was afterwards found to consist of nineteen, exclusive of two others armed *en flute*, and a number of large frigates. This fleet was discovered on the 28th of April, off Martinico, and, notwithstanding its superiority, Sir Samuel resolved, if possible, to bring it to action. About half an hour before noon, on the 29th, a partial engagement commenced, and continued, though at a great distance, till past three. In this skirmish, some of the van ships received considerable damage; but the loss of men was inconsiderable, thirty-six only being killed, and a hundred and sixty-one wounded. Sir Samuel concludes his account of the action in the following terms:——"I think it very much my duty to say, that the zeal and exertion of Rear Admiral Drake, and of the captains, officers, and men I had the honor to command, were such, that if Monsieur de Grasse had thought fit to have brought his Majesty's squadron to action, and it should have pleased

pleased God to have given him the victory, I trust he would not have found it an easy one, great as the superiority of the enemy was against us."

Sir Samuel used the utmost expedition in repairing the damages of such of his ships as could be refitted at sea, sending the others into St. Eustatia and St. Lucia, under orders to join him with the utmost dispatch. With the remainder he repaired to a given rendezvous, and formed a junction with the commander-in-chief.

On the approach of the hurricane months, De Grasse having proceeded to North America, Sir Samuel followed him thither, by order of Sir George Rodney, with fourteen ships of the line. These were intended as a reinforcement for Rear Admiral Graves, then holding the chief command on the American station, with a force very incapable of resisting so formidable an opponent as De Grasse. He arrived off the Chesapeak on the 25th of August, and thence proceeded to Sandy Hook, where, on the 31st, he was joined by Admiral Graves, with five sail of the line. They immediately sailed in quest of the enemy; and, on the morning of September the 5th, the French fleet was discovered at anchor across the Chesapeak. An action ensued, in which the English had ninety killed, and two hundred and thirty wounded, chiefly belonging to Sir Samuel Hood's squadron. The hostile fleets remained five days in sight of each other, during which time the enemy shewed no inclination to renew the fight, although they often had it in their power. The French admiral, however, gained his object, by covering the arrival of M. de Barras's squadron and convoy to Rhode Island; after which he returned with his fleet to the Chesapeak, and anchored across, so as to

block

block up the passage. This decided the fate of Lord Cornwallis, who was subsequently obliged to surrender at York Town. Thus naval operations having been closed on the American station, by the surrender of Cornwallis, and by the return of De Grasse to the West Indies, Sir Samuel also returned with all the ships that were ready for service. He had scarcely resumed his station in the West Indies, when he found the Island of St. Christopher's attacked by a powerful land force, under the Count de Bouillé, covered and protected by a fleet consisting of upwards of thirty ships of the line. The ships under Sir Samuel consisted of only twenty-two sail; but with this inferior force he resolved, if possible, to attempt the preservation of the island. He had received accurate information that the greater part of the French fleet, consisting of twenty-nine ships of the line, lay at anchor in Basse-terre road, and resolved to surprise and attack them in that situation. Unfortunately, however, two of the ships which were stationed to lead on the starboard tack, ran foul, and so materially damaged each other, as to render a new disposition necessary. This occasioned an unavoidable delay, which enabled the French admiral to get under weigh, and to form his line ready to receive the attack of the English. At day-light on the ensuing morning (January 25, 1782) the French fleet was discovered to the leeward, and Sir Samuel, by making every shew of attacking them, misled them from their real intention. This was done with the view of drawing them to a distance from their former anchorage, so that, by pushing for it himself, he had a chance of dispossessing them. In this he succeeded, after sustaining a partial action with the

Count de Grasse, who engaged his rear and part of his centre.

On the ensuing day two slight skirmishes took place, productive of very little inconvenience or damage to the English, but materially injurious to the French, who, exclusively of slain, had upwards of one thousand men wounded. The Count de Bouillé, at the head of eight thousand men, had made himself master of the whole island, Brimstone-hill excepted. In that post he had enclosed, and was besieging Brigadier-General Fraser, who had collected there all the troops in the island, amounting to about seven hundred men. The marines and troops on board the British squadron amounted to no more than two thousand four hundred, a force very inadequate to attack the enemy with; and therefore the only support which could be rendered to the citadel and its garrison, was that of continuing at anchor, and thereby preventing any farther assistance being afforded the assailants, by the presence of their very superior fleet. The fortifications on the hill were at this time in good condition; and their supposed impregnable situation, added to the high spirits in which both the governor and the garrison were, rendered the probability of success, on the part of the enemy, extremely doubtful. The arrival of Sir George Rodney, with a powerful reinforcement, was almost daily expected, and, in short, there was every prospect that the French would be much embarrassed in their undertaking. Such, however, was the vigour with which the assailants pressed their attack, that, in despite of a very brave and determined resistance made by the governor and garrison, aided by the natural situation of the fortress itself, General Fraser was compelled

pelled to demand a capitulation on the 13th of February.

Nothing now remained for Sir Samuel but to retire, and carry off his fleet in as perfect a condition as possible, so that when reinforced by Sir George Rodney and his squadron, it might be in immediate condition to undertake offensive operations. Under this idea the fleet quitted Basse-terre Road, on the night of the 14th, notwithstanding the enemy's force, which had been joined by some ships from Europe, then consisted of thirty-six ships of the line, and were lying at anchor within a distance of five miles, their lights being very distinctly seen. Sir Samuel carried his purpose into execution, by causing every ship in the fleet to cut her cable, and get under sail as nearly as possible at the same instant. By this prudent manœuvre he completely succeeded in carrying off his whole force, unopposed by the enemy, a circumstance that strongly led to the complete defeat of the Count de Grasse, which, it may be well remembered, took place on the 12th of April following.

Sir Samuel and his division bore the principal share in a short skirmish which took place previously to that great event, on the 9th; nor did he less distinguish himself on the more interesting occasion which succeeded it. It is on record, from the pen of the great Edmund Burke, that Sir Samuel Hood's ship, "the Barfleur, had at one time seven, and generally three ships upon her: but nothing could be more glorious than the firm and gallant resistance with which, and without even shrinking, this ship sustained the efforts of so great a superiority." At the very moment of the sun's setting, on the glorious 12th of April, our officer,

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who had been closely engaged with his old antagonist in the Ville de Paris, had the singular good fortune to behold her at length strike to the Barfleur, when the Comte de Grasse surrendered his sword to an enemy whose uncommon merit he was at all times ready to acknowledge.

Sir Samuel's conduct deservedly procured for him the warmest thanks of the commander-in-chief, the general applause of his countrymen, and the well-merited favor of his sovereign. As soon as the news of the encounter reached England, he was created a peer of Ireland, by the title of Baron Hood, of Catherington. The freedom of the city of London was unanimously voted him in a gold box, of a hundred guineas value; and similar tokens of esteem and gratitude were manifested in different parts of the kingdom.

On the 18th of April, as soon as the damages sustained by the fleet were in some degree repaired, Lord Hood was detached, with twelve sail of the line, a frigate, and a fire-ship, with orders to proceed through the Mona Passage, in search of such French ships as might have taken that route. On the following day, five sail were discovered, four of which, the Caton and Jason of 64 guns each, the Aimable of 32, and the Ceres sloop, were captured, after a chace of seven or eight hours.

The remainder of the war passed on without the intervention of any extraordinary occurrence; and, peace being concluded, at the end of 1782 his Lordship returned to England in the ensuing spring.

During the peace he commanded as port-admiral at Portsmouth, having his flag on board the Barfleur,

the same ship in which he had, in the West Indies, acquired so much reputation.

At the general election, in 1784, Lord Hood was elected, by a large majority, one of the representatives for the city of Westminster: on the 24th of September, 1787, he was promoted to the rank of Vice-Admiral of the Blue; and in June, 1788, when the Earl of Chatham was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Hood was made one of the commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain.

In the Spanish armament of 1790, his Lordship hoisted his flag on board the Victory, the late flag-ship of Lord Nelson, which was dismantled soon afterwards.

In the Russian armament of the following year, the eyes of the nation were again directed toward him, and he was appointed commander-in-chief of a squadron destined for a particular service, but which, on an amicable adjustment of differences, did not proceed to sea.

At the commencement of the late war, in 1793, Lord Hood was made Vice-Admiral of the Red; and, almost at the same instant, was called forth to command a powerful fleet destined for the Mediterranean. He accordingly hoisted his flag on board his former ship the Victory, and proceeded thither in the month of May, where, on his arrival, such unprecedented events ensued, as, we will venture to say, that any more difficult or more perplexing never fell to the lot of a British admiral. It had never formed a part of the responsibility of any officer, excepting the subject of the present memoir, to combine the momentous duties

duties of a naval commander-in-chief with the important ones of civil commissioner of the interests of one of the largest and most valuable ports in Europe. We allude to his proceedings at, and before the harbour of Toulon. He had to attend to the details of a fleet consisting of upwards of thirty British ships and vessels, with seven French ships, manned and armed, under the direction of the French Rear Admiral Trogoffe; to the correspondence with the secretary of the Admiralty and secretary of state; with the several British ambassadors, ministers, and consuls in Spain, Italy, Constantinople, the States of Barbary, and the islands in the Mediterranean; the foreign correspondence with the sections of Toulon and Marseilles; the negociations and correspondence with the Austrian minister and generals; with the Tuscan minister and governors; with the Kings of Sardinia and Naples, and their secretaries of state, generals, and naval commanding officers; with the Pope and his secretary of state, Cardinal Zeladi; with the senators of Genoa and Venice; with the Grand Master of Malta; and with the Corsican General Paoli and his adherents. Scarcely a day passed but the Admiral received letters from one or other of the above quarters, written in French, Spanish, and Italian, which he answered in the most punctual manner. All this too, it should be observed, was at a moment that was rendered particularly critical, from his being coalesced with the Spaniards, who were jealous of his authority, and who secretly endeavoured to overthrow the good cause which they openly professed to support. Such was the task of difficulty and danger which Lord Hood had to perform, with the eyes of all Europe watching the manner

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in which it was executed. Nothing but a combination of firmness and diligence could have surmounted such a trial. Notwithstanding, however, the unexampled difficulty of his labours, the distinguished thanks which he received must be regarded as public testimonies of their able accomplishment. His Lordship's services were acknowledged by the Kings of Sardinia and Naples under their own hands: his Holiness the Pope also manifested, in the same manner, his deep sense of the important benefits which he had derived from the zeal and care of Admiral Lord Hood: a present of a very elegant set of the *Pia Clementina*, in six large folio volumes, containing engravings of the statues, busts, and other antiques at Rome, which had hitherto been never given to any but crowned heads, was sent him by his Holiness.

To enter into the proceedings which took place at Toulon would require a volume of considerable extent, and would consequently far exceed our utmost limits. Suffice it to observe, that the port was taken possession of on the 27th of August. A variety of skirmishes and encounters took place, in which the English were generally successful; but, in the end, the number of troops which were ordered to invest the town, under the authority of the French Republic, five times outnumbered those of the allied powers, and, on the 18th of December, after destroying or carrying away the principal part of the shipping, firing the arsenal, and every other *depôt* of foreign stores, to as great an extent as the shortness of time would permit, Toulon was finally abandoned to the enemy.

Lord Hood, having taken on board as many of those who were well affected to the cause of royalty as were

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in any condition to effect their escape, bent his course towards Corsica. The troops, which were under the command of Lieutenant General Dundas, disembarked in a bay in the Gulph of St. Fiorenzo, on the 7th of February, 1794, and on the 17th of that month the enemy's works of Fornelli were stormed, and the town of St. Fiorenzo was taken.

Impatient to follow up the blow immediately, by attempting the reduction of Bastia, Lord Hood proposed a plan of co-operation to General Dundas, which he declined, deeming it impracticable and visionary, without a reinforcement of two thousand troops, which he expected from Gibraltar. Finding that the General remained inflexible, his Lordship determined to attempt the reduction of the place himself, with only the naval force that was under his command. He therefore demanded that the remains of those regiments which had been originally ordered by his Majesty to serve as marines, should return to their duty, on board their respective ships, of which they were borne as part of their regular complements. After much delay, having received those troops, and also two officers of artillery and thirty men, with some ordnance stores and entrenching tools, in the beginning of April Lord Hood commenced the siege of Bastia alone, by disembarking the seamen and troops serving as marines to the northward of the town: the guns, mortars, ammunition, and stores of every description were landed; while the ships of the fleet were judiciously anchored in a semi-circular form, just without reach of the enemy's guns, so as effectually to prevent any boats from going into, or coming out of the town.

The French commander having refused to surrender, Lord

Lord Hood's batteries were opened, with great effect, on the 11th of April, and on the 21st of the following month, the town and citadel of Bastia, with the several posts on the heights, surrendered to the arms of His Britannic Majesty, by articles of capitulation drawn up and signed by the respective parties, The number of French and Corsican troops amounted to nearly four thousand; while the greatest return of the British force employed during the siege was only one thousand two hundred and forty-eight. Thus was the strong and well-fortified town of Bastia taken by a detachment of British seamen and marines, or soldiers acting as such, inferior in number to the garrison of regularly disciplined troops, and who had no tents but such as were made of sails, and no other battering train than the lower-deck guns of line of battle ships.

The vote of thanks to Lord Hood for this astonishing exploit, which had been deemed impracticable and visionary by an able military officer, was carried in both Houses of Parliament by a great majority.

His Lordship next proceeded to co-operate with Lieutenant General Stewart, in the reduction of Calvi, which surrendered on the 10th of August; and thus the conquest of the whole island of Corsica was completed by the skill and perseverance of a British admiral.

His health being much impaired by the fatigue and anxiety attending such a continuance of duty, and such a variety of harrassing and perplexed service, Lord Hood returned to England for its re-establishment in the month of December, 1794. In the month of May following he had prepared to resume his command in the Mediterranean, with a reinforcement, when, unexpectedly,

expectedly, he was ordered to strike his flag, which has not since been hoisted.

About this time his Lordship had the pleasure of receiving a complimentary letter from Sir Gilbert Elliot, then Viceroy of Corsica, of which the following is a part:——

"*Bastia, April* 25, 1795.

"MY LORD,

"I have the honor of transmitting to your Excellency a letter from the president of the chamber of parliament, inclosing the thanks of the chamber, for the distinguished part which your Excellency has taken for the deliverance of Corsica, and the invaluable services which have been rendered to this country by the uniform zeal, application, courage, and ability displayed by your Excellency, as well as by the officers and men under your orders, during every period of your command: the chamber has still farther evinced the grateful affection and attachment of Corsica towards your Excellency, by requesting you to sit for your picture, which they propose to place in the chamber of parliament."

Lord Hood sat for the picture, as requested; but, before it could be finished, the idea of retaining the sovereignty of Corsica was abandoned by the British government, and, consequently, the picture never quitted England.

It was not until the spring of 1804, that the meritorious services of Lord Hood, at Toulon, obtained a remuneration from the British parliament. A sum, amounting to nearly 300,000l. was then awarded

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to his Lordship, on behalf of himself and the officers, seamen, and marines engaged in the capture of the ships, &c. at Toulon.

On the 25th of March, 1795, Lord Hood was elected an elder brother of the Trinity House, in the room of the Marquis of Downshire, deceased. In April, 1796, he was appointed Governor of Greenwich Hospital; and in the month of May, in the same year, he was raised to the dignity of a Viscount of Great Britain. In February, 1799, he was advanced to the rank of Admiral of the White; and in November, 1805, Admiral of the Red Squadron.

As a member of the House of Peers, his Lordship has acquired considerable reputation; and whether we consider him in his professional character as a naval officer, or in his political one as a member of Parliament, we shall find him equally deserving of his country's gratitude and praise.

Of his lordship's private life and family connexions we have only to observe, that he married a Miss Linzee, of Portsmouth, whose father was for many years mayor of that place, and much respected. Lady Hood was created a Viscountess, in her own right, previously to his Lordship's return from the Mediter a-nean. By this marriage Lord Hood has a son and heir, the Hon. Henry Hood, of Catherington, whose youngest son will succeed to the title of Lord Bridport.

REV. ROWLAND HILL.

FEW families, we believe, have been more distinguished for their religious eccentricities than that of Rowland Hill The circumstance of a Baronet, and a member of Parliament, preaching in a meeting-house, dressed in a green coat, ornamented with gold lace, is a phenomenon of so rare an appearance as to be scarcely credited; yet we are assured that it was realised in the person of Sir Richard Hill, the brother of the celebrated clergyman, whose character we are about to sketch, some years ago, at Truro, in Cornwall.

The family is of great respectability, its pedigree being traced back to the grandfather of Hugh Hull, or Hill, who was of considerable note in the county of Salop, in the reign of Edward II. Rowland, the father of the present Baronet, was exalted to that dignity in the year 1726, and in 1734 he was elected member of parliament for the city of Litchfield. He married Jane, the daughter of Sir Brian Broughton, Bart. and had ten children by her, of whom the Rev. Rowland Hill is the sixth.

Sir Richard, the eldest son, and successor to his father, was educated, we believe, at Westminster School, whence, at a proper period, he was removed

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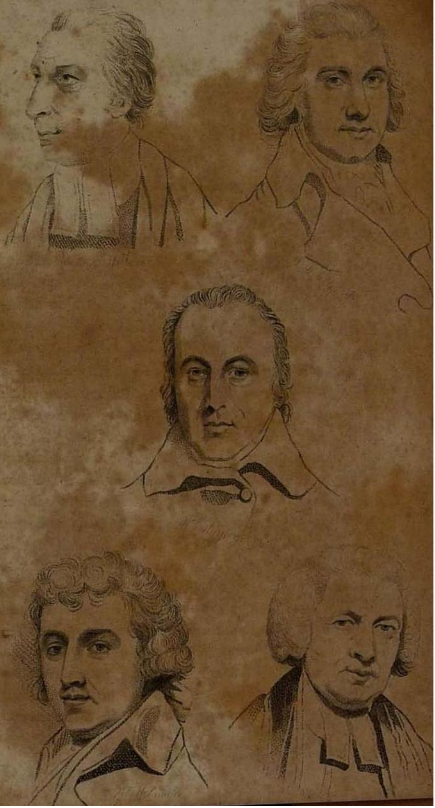

to the University of Oxford, where he soon distinguished himself by the peculiarities of methodism. It is perfectly well known that the great leaders, or, as they may be termed, founders of methodism, Wesley and Whitfield, adopted opposite sentiments as to the extent of human salvation. The former admitted man to be a free agent, and that the atonement of Christ was made for all men; while the latter, supported by the entire host of calvinistical methodists, contended that man was a mere passive instrument, till grace inspired him with divine life, and that the elect only, or those who had been predestined from all eternity, were to be made partakers of the kingdom of heaven. On these inscrutable points a fierce contention arose among the methodistical leaders; and had they been in possession of the power, there is every reason to suppose that they would have excommunicated each other for heterodoxy. Calvin was distinguished in his day for the gloomy severity of his theological tenets, and his followers, to the present hour, have displayed the same intolerant features. It is not therefore to be wondered at, that, in the contention alluded to, they were by far the most violent. Sir Richard Hill, one of their most strenuous partisans, published several pamphlets upon the doctrines in dispute, which evinced considerable knowledge of the subject, and displayed no small skill in the art of theological controversy. About the same time the university of Oxford began to be jealous of the progress of methodism, and finding that Edmund-hall contained some students who exercised their preaching talents before they were duly authorised, expelled them. This, it will be recollected by many of our religious readers, occasioned a furious

outcry among the zealots, who published several pieces against Dr. Howell, then principal of the hall, and other heads of houses who were concerned in the expulsion. This circumstance afforded Sir Richard Hill an excellent opportunity of displaying his polemical talents, and in a tract which was written with great shrewdness and spirit, entitled *Pietas Oxoniensis*, he stood boldly forward as the champion of methodism.

Not long after this, Sir Richard engaged in a paper war with Dr. Adams, rector of St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, on the following occasion. It was the custom of the late Mr. Romaine, whom the Calvinists regarded as their prophet, to spend some of the summer months in travelling. In one of these excursions he was invited to preach at the Doctor's church. He accepted the invitation; but his sermon was so little to the vicar's taste, that he is said to have treated him rather rudely, and even to have preached against him from the same pulpit. This reminds us of an anecdote of the late Mr. Venn. That gentleman, happening to pass through Towcester, on a Saturday evening, asked the landlord of the inn where he put up, whether he thought the parson of the parish would be glad of his help.—"Oh yes," said Bonniface, "I dare say, Sir, he will be very glad to have his duty done."—"Then be so good," said Mr. Venn, "to present my compliments, and tell him that a Yorkshire clergyman will stay to-morrow at the inn, and is ready to preach or pray for him, if he needs his assistance." Away goes mine host of the garter with the welcome news to the parson. "Gladly," replies the vicar; "but pray what sort of a man is this Yorkshire clergyman? There are such people as methodist vagrants, you know, hah!"—The

other

other laughed, and shaking his head, replied—" Ah, Sir, look only at his *face* and *nose*, and you will see he is not one of that sort."—" Well," said the vicar, " let him come to me in the morning, and then I shall see whether I like him to preach or pray."—The landlord returned with the message, and the next morning Mr. Venn waited on his reverend brother.— " Sir," said he, " you are from Yorkshire, I understand?"—" Yes, Sir."—" Will you please to drink a dram this morning?"—" I have no objection." The bottle being produced, Mr. Venn took a sip. His character was at once determined. Robed and ready, away they posted together to church, and Mr. Venn to the pulpit. His bible was no sooner opened than the congregation stared, and the parson covered his face with his surplice to hide his mortification. In short, when service was over, the vicar hastened home without speaking to Mr. Venn, who was left to retire to the inn alone.

We have not heard that any literary argumentation resulted from this misunderstanding; but it was not so in the case of Adams *versus* Romaine; for the latter was attacked, in a pointed letter, with great warmth, by the author of *Pietas Oxoniensis*, and for some time the controversy was continued with much heat on both sides. Among the chief antagonists of Sir Richard, were Mr. John Wesley, and a very pious minister in connexion with that extraordinary man, the Rev. Mr. John Fletcher, vicar of Madely. But, on the part of the Calvinists, there was one gentleman who had a decided superiority over all the rest. This was Mr. Augustus Toplady, who possessed a consider-

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able degree of learning, a great command of language, an extent of reading, and such a competency of metaphysics and logic, as enabled him to force a charm even into the harsh features of calvinism. Though a strenuous supporter of the principles which he had embraced, he was no friend to that gloomy and unbending austerity which generally distinguishes the sect. When he died, the Wesleyan, or Arminian methodists, are understood to have propagated some scandalous stories concerning the manner of his departure, stating, among other things, that he had recanted his opinions, and expired distracted. Sir Richard Hill, anxious for the honor and consistent integrity of his departed friend, printed a small pamphlet, which operated as an abundant vindication of Mr. Toplady, and did ample honor to the feelings of its author.

In addition to the tracts already noticed, Sir Richard has published several other pieces, both practical and controversial.

Early in life he was elected knight of the shire for his native county, and has invariably occupied that seat, in every succeeding parliament, to the present time. Sir Richard's political principles have generally borne the stamp of independence, although in most instances during the administrations of Lord North, Mr. Pitt, and Mr. Addington, he has voted in favor of government. Of late he has not spoken so frequently in the house as formerly. His speeches, exhibiting a motley mixture of politics and religion, oftentimes excited considerable merriment; and, among other strokes of satire, drew forth the following lines from the author of *Criticisms on the Rolliad.*

"With

"With bible ———, and with sacred smut,
His reverend jokes see pious Richard cut:
He to the wondering senate first reveal'd,
That *gospel* was for joke so wide a field;
That no resource was ever found for wit
Half so prolific as the *holy writ*;
And that of all the *jest books* man has known,
The bible's merits most distinguished shone."

Most readers, we presume, will be of opinion, that the above lines betray more coarseness than wit.

At the general election preceding the last, Sir Richard is said to have been so intent on bringing in a near relation for the town of Shrewsbury, as to expend many thousand pounds upon the contest, in which he had the mortification at last to be defeated. This electioneering warfare, which was carried on with all that fury and intemperance which usually disgrace those contentions, gave considerable offence to many of the baronet's religious friends, who thought that the money so disposed of might have been much better laid out in building meeting-houses, and in supporting missionaries. To the honour of Sir Richard, however, it must be mentioned, that he has never been backward in contributing his aid to the wants of his fellow-creatures. His charities are well known to have been very extensive and substantial; and what is still better, they have been administered in the true spirit of christianity, with tenderness and secresy.

Sir Richard has laid out his paternal estate in Shropshire, with great taste, and Hawkstone is at present one of the finest ornaments of the county. At this beautiful seat, we understand that he has a chapel, in which he actually officiates as a preacher, or exhorter to his

his own family and friends. The baronet has never been married, and, considering his advanced stage of life, it is scarcely probable that he will be induced to change his condition.

The Rev. Rowland Hill, to whom we now immediately proceed, received the early part of his education at Eton school, a seminary at which perhaps it would be little expected that a scholar should imbibe the rigorous and gloomy doctrines of calvinism. Such, however, was the case with Mr. Hill, who, at an early period, shewed a strong predilection for the eccentricities of methodism. There seems to have been a kind of fatality in this, as well as with respect to his brother. No parental prejudices induced their attachment to methodism; but, on the contrary, it was matter of great offence to their father, who fondly entertained an idea, that, as his son Rowland was designed for the church, he would attain to the highest clerical distinctions. How far his brother Richard, who was considerably his senior, might be instrumental towards his conversion, we cannot pretend to say.

From Eton Mr. Hill removed to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he proceeded with some reputation, and took up his degree of Master of Arts. The master passion, however, was still predominant, and the effervescence of his zeal was so strong, that he could not confine himself within the limits prescribed by the church for the exercise of the christian ministry; but, before he was of a proper age to enter into orders, he attracted some notice as a preacher among the methodists, especially at the tabernacle, and at Tottenham-court chapel, in London. Some of his friends were rather displeased with his precipitancy, particularly

Mr.

Mr. Toplady, who, though he had a very strong affection for him, was zealous for conformity to the rules of the establishment. The conduct of Mr. Toplàdy was in this respect highly praiseworthy: for, as none but enthusiasts, in the present day, will contend for the existence of immediate inspiration, the absurdity of suffering boys to pretend to *teach*, before they have scarcely begun to *learn*, must be obvious to every one. Indeed, after his premature display, it was with great difficulty that Mr. Hill could procure either a title to orders, or the consent of a bishop to ordain him. At last, the Bishop of Bath and Wells admitted him into the church, on a curacy in his diocese; but, whether he ever proceeded farther than to deacon's orders is a point which we have not the means of ascertaining. Mr. Hill did not long continue stationary; for, in imitation of his prototype, Whitfield, he could not refrain from displaying his talents and his zeal in barns, in meeting-houses, and in streets. His fame was soon spread far and wide; for, though his oratorical powers were by no means equal to those of Mr. Whitfield, he had youth, warmth, pleasantness, and high connexions to recommend him. "The son of a baronet," says a former biographer of Mr. Hill "gave consequence to methodism, and he was looked upon as another Elisha succeeding to the mantle of the Elijah of the party, George Whitfield."

During the time that the controversy raged so furiously between the calvinistic and the arminian methodists, Mr. Hill, as well as his brother, entered the lists, and gave publicity to some very violent pamphlets against Mr. Wesley, whom, we are sorry to remark, he by no means treated with the respect due to his profession

fession and years. It is indeed an extraordinary thing, that the professors of christianity, a system which breathes the purest piety, the most extensive benevolence, the most universal philanthropy, should, in their contests, display the greatest asperity and the most furious rancour. As a controversialist, it should, however, be mentioned, that, both in skill and temper, Mr. Hill falls far short of his brother. On the whole, as a literary character, he does not rank very high. He has published several single sermons and pious tracts, which might be useful perhaps in their way, but which are not entitled to any particular notice. His "Journal of a Tour through the North of England and Part of Scotland, in 1798," is a performance of some interest. It is, as might be expected, of a desultory nature, and contains some curious descriptions of places, persons, and manners. Yet here again we have to object to a want of liberality in the writer. The freedom with which he treated the Scotch church gave great offence to the presbyterian clergy, and drew forth some remarks from Dr. Jamieson, a respectable divine of that establishment.

We have now to mention a circumstance which, in our opinion, is very creditable to the feelings of Mr. Hill. From a principle of modesty, we may presume, his friend, Mr. Toplady, when dying, forbade any funeral discourse to be preached at his interment. Mr. Hill, however, anxious that the remembrance of his virtues should not pass away without eulogium, delivered an oration instead of a sermon, in the course of which he pronounced a warm panegyric on his departed friend. This was a pious fraud, which demands praise rather than censure.

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In his earlier years, Mr. Hill contented himself with travelling about the country, as a labourer by the way side, and preached chiefly in the chapels of the Whitfield connexion; but, in 1783, he laid the foundation of a large place of worship, in Blackfriar's road, which was opened in the course of the following year. This structure, which is of an *octagonal* form, is vulgarly denominated the *round* house, and, though very spacious is constantly crowded. Mr. Hill regularly officiates at this chapel while in London: but he usually spends a considerable part of the summer in travelling, particularly into Scotland, as an itinerant missionary. It was during one of these excursions that he composed the " Journal" before alluded to.

It should be remarked, that in Mr. Hill's, as well as in most of the other calvinistical chapels of the methodists, the church liturgy is read on Sundays; though we have reason to believe, that the readers are seldom in orders. Mr. Hill has been charged, by the more rigorous of his sect, with a laxity of conduct, in yielding his pulpit to the use of preachers of all persuasions, episcopalians, presbyterians, independants, and baptists, ordained and unordained. With respect to himself, he will as readily preach in a field, a street, or a conventicle, as in a church.

Mr. Hill's professional character stands justly high in the estimation of his friends, and it would be ungenerous to doubt the sincerity of his motives, or the disinterestedness of his labour. Of his pulpit eloquence, many curious anecdotes are related, for his sermons, it must be admitted even by his admirers, exhibit a strange medley of incongruities. In the midst of a solemn exhortation, or some vehement de-

nunciation against sinners, it is no unusual thing for him to introduce a whimsical story, against which the risible muscles of the gravest old woman in the congregation are scarcely proof. When a child, the writer of this article has repeatedly heard him, with a pleasure superior to that which any other preacher was capable of exciting; a circumstance arising entirely from the amusing anecdotes which he related, and which possessed the power of fixing the juvenile attention in an extraordinary degree. Even by maturer age it must be admitted, that Mr. Hill has a peculiar knack of dressing up an anecdote, and that his tales are generally introduced with considerable effect. At times, however, his love of a joke transports him to the extremest verge of decorum. Some years ago, he was very frequently in the habit of preaching charity sermons at St. John's Church, Wapping; and, as his congregations were always numerous, the collections were proportionably great. On one of these occasions, observing that his auditory was unusually large, and made up of seafaring persons who were not celebrated for overmuch religion, he exclaimed, that he was come to preach to great sinners, notorious sinners, prophane sinners, and said he, with peculiar emphasis, "WAPPING sinners." This climax operated like an electric shock through all the congregation, and highly offended in general the inhabitants of that *polite* part of the town, who conceived themselves materially insulted by such a debasement of their place of abode.

In private life Mr. Hill is said to be exceedingly enlivening, without the least tinge of the fanatic. His conversation abounds with pleasant stories, and he is very happy at a repartee. His domestics are said almost

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to adore him. We have heard it mentioned that, happening once to witness a contention between two of his domestics, of the opposite sexes, respecting their duty to clean a certain part of his premises, he very coolly repaired to the spot; and, without the least expression of harshness, insisted on their bringing him a coarse apron and a pair of pattens, observing that, as the business belonged to neither of them, he must do it himself, which he actually did in their presence.

Once he is said to have reprehended his wife* from the pulpit, on the extreme finery of her dress, and her fondness of fashion. Another time, being much displeased with her cap, which perhaps was too much *a-la-parisienne*, he was so ungallant as to burn it; and, not satisfied with the conflagration of *le pauvre bonnet a-la-mode*, he mentioned the circumstance in his sermon on the succeeding Sunday. Mrs. Hill was not present; but, when he went home, a dialogue between him and his spouse took place to the following effect: "My dear, I told my congregation to day, of the circumstance of my burning your cap."—"Did you, my love? and did you tell them also of the consequence which it produced?—"No, my dear, what was it?—"Why that I immediately went to my milliner and ordered home another!"—We have too high an opinion of the good nature of our divine, to suppose that any thing worse than a smile escaped him on the occasion.

The charity and benevolence of Mr. Hill are universally known. Those admirable institutions, the

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* The lady whom Mr. Hill married, was Miss Tudway, of Somersetshire, by whom we believe he has no children.

soup societies; are indebted for their origin and establishment to his philanthropy; and, to his honour it, should be recorded, his bountiful exertions are not confined within the pale of any particular sect. The following instance of his generosity is well authenticated:—Being called upon one evening to visit a sick man, he found a poor emaciated creature in a wretched bed, without any thing to comfort him in his miserable condition. Looking more narrowly, he observed that the man was actually without a shirt, on which he instantly stripped himself, and forced his own upon the reluctant, surprised, and grateful object; then buttoning himself up close, he hastened homewards, sent all things necessary for the destitute being, provided medical aid, and had the satisfaction of restoring a fellow-creature to his family, and of placing him in a situation to provide for their support.

The subjoined anecdote, if not more praiseworthy, is at least more remarkable. As he was travelling alone, he was accosted by a footpad, who, by the agitation of his voice and manner, appeared to be raw in the profession. After delivering to the man his money and watch, curiosity prompted him to put a question or two to him upon the motives which urged him to so desperate a course. The man candidly confessed that being out of employment, with a wife and children who were perishing for want, despair had forced him to turn robber, but that this was the first act he had been engaged in. Mr. Hill communicated his name and address, and told him if he would call upon him the next day he would see what could be done for him. The man came, and was taken into the service of our divine, with whom he continued until his death.

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This adventure, it is said, Mr. Hill related himself in the funeral sermon which he delivered on the death of his domestic.

We have heard Mr. Hill's conduct on this occasion much praised; but we must confess that, in our opinion, it would have been more creditable and honourable in him to have suppressed this statement altogether.

Mr. Hill has a brother in orders the Rev. Brian Hill, A. M. who is settled in Derbyshire, where he performs the duties of a regular parish priest with distinguished credit. He is the author of some poetical effusions of merit, particularly a piece entitled *Eugenius and Acasto*. This gentleman, we believe, is unmarried.

SAMUEL WHITBREAD ESQ.

WHEN a man, by whatever circumstance, becomes placed in a conspicuous situation, the public are naturally anxious to be informed, as to his family, connexions, and pretensions to notice. The proceedings of Mr. Whitbread have, during the last twelvemonth, excited an unusual portion of attention: the eyes of the British public, have been fixed upon him; and, on this account, we conceive that an outline of his life, cannot prove otherwise than acceptable.

It will ever be a sentiment, admitted and approved by the liberal mind, that the man who forms the basis, and erects the superstructure of his own fortune, is a far more estimable character, than he who revels in the undisturbed possession of a patrimonial inheritance; for the acquisition of which he has never toiled, or felt a moment's anxiety. Industry is entitled to many honors: she points the road to wealth; and, by promoting an honest emulation, contributes largely to the general interest and happiness of the community.

On these grounds, the father of Mr. Whitbread, the present member for Bedford, claims the most honorable mention. His family was of humble origin; and its members, scarcely soaring above the rank of shopkeepers,

keepers, were chiefly distinguished for their integrity and punctuality of dealing. The father of the late Mr. Whitbread, who resided at the Barns, at Cadington, in Bedfordshire, gave his son the usual education that is furnished to boys who are destined for business, and then sent him to London, to qualify himself, in the situation of an apprentice, for future commercial pursuits. The earlier part of his life was passed in credit and respectability; and, by some property which came into his possession at the death of his father, added to the produce of his own industry, and the connexions which he had formed, he was enabled to make a push in the world. His advancement in life was seen by the erection of his brewery in Chiswell Street, an establishment, which, at that time, was far superior to any that England had witnessed. Indeed, such care and attention were bestowed upon every department, that it may be still regarded as a monument of superior skill and industry, and is not surpassed even now, by those which have adopted the latest improvements. In this situation Mr. Whitbread accumulated a large fortune, which was conjectured to amount to the sum of a million sterling, at least. At all events, his fortune was large enough to place him on a footing with the country gentlemen of the first landed property in England; and the affection which he retained for his native place, at which, after his father's death, he spent much of his time, gave him an opportunity of ingratiating himself with the town of Bedford, which was happy to return frequently to parliament such a representative, and to possess a patron ever studious to promote its interests. His noble benefactions to the town, during his life, and his bequest at his death,

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which still live in the grateful memory of every inhabitant, naturally secured the seat to his son, the present member. The late Mr. Whitbread did not often speak in parliament; but when he did, he was listened to with attention; and his remarks on the inequality of the land-tax, on a corn-bill in relief of a great scarcity in 1788, on the loan of that year, and on the evasion of the receipt-tax, display that soundness of judgment which was a principal feature in his character.

Thus, by application, industry, and talent, Mr. Whitbread raised himself, in the course of fifty-years, to a height which few attain. In the city, he was known as the first brewer, and one of the most opulent men of his time; in Portman square, his mansion displayed the elegance of the man of rank; and at Cadington, or Bedwell Park, he was the country gentleman, distinguished by hospitality: every where he carried with him the satisfaction of an honest conscience, and of a benevolence which was not diminished by the increase of his fortune.

Mr. Whitbread's brewhouse was so much an object of admiration and curiosity, that, in the year 1787, it attracted the attention of his Majesty and the Royal Family, by whom it was honored with a visit. On this occasion, the brewhouse was shewn in its usual form, with only those accommodations under foot which were necessary for a female party. This visit, it will be recollected, by most of our readers, formed the subject of a satirical poem, from the pen of the notorious Peter Pindar.

The late Mr. Whitbread was twice married. His first wife was Harriet, the daughter of Mr. Hayton, an eminent attorney in London, to whom he was married

ried in 1757, and who died in 1764. The present member for Bedford, and two daughters, were the issue of this marriage. Of these daughters, the elder was married to Mr. Gordon, of More-Park, Hertfordshire, in 1789, and the younger to Lord St. John, of Bletsoe. Mr. Whitbread's second wife, to whom he was united in the year 1769, was sister to the late Marquis Cornwallis. She died in child-birth of a daughter, in the following year. This daughter was afterwards married to Captain Grey, the third son of Lord Grey.

After an honorable and well-spent life, Mr. Whitbread died in the year 1796, at his house in Bedwell-Park, Hertfordshire, universally respected, in the 76th year of his age. It would here be unpardonable not to notice one of the benevolent bequests of his will. The writer of this article has been informed, from private authority, that the first Mrs. Whitbread owed her death to that dreadful infliction, a cancer. From witnessing the excruciating torture which this complaint produced, his humanity impelled him, for many years, to send anonymously, an annual sum to one of our public institutions, (we believe the Middlesex-Hospital) for the special assistance of those who were thus afflicted. On the promulgation of his will, the secret benefactor was discovered, by a bequest in perpetuity for the same generous purpose.

Mr. Whitbread, the subject of our present consideration, received his education at Eton, where he formed an intimacy with Mr. Lambton, afterwards member for Durham, and with Mr. Grey, the present First Lord of the Admiralty. This intimacy was kept up in the University of Cambridge, where Mr. Whitbread after a short stay at Christ-Church, Oxford, had the

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pleasure of joining his old schoolfellows: they were at Trinity-College, and he was admitted at St. John's college, the college adjoining. At Cambridge, Mr. Whitbread remained till the year 1785, when he took his degree of Bachelor of Arts; after which he made an extensive tour on the continent, accompanied by Mr. Coxe, fellow of King's-college, whose celebrated description of this tour, and other writings, prove him to have been well qualified for the charge.

Mr. Whitbread, in studying men and manners in such company, learned to appreciate the advantages of his own country, to investigate the political relations of the courts of Europe, and to cultivate a taste for the polite arts.—After his return from the continent, he entered into a matrimonial connexion with the sister of his friend and schoolfellow, Mr. Grey. To this lady he was married, at Falloden, in Northumberland, on the 26th of January, 1788. Thus, by family ties, as well as by friendship, were Mr. Whitbread and Mr. Grey united; and, their political sentiments being also in unison, they together inlisted under the banners of opposition in parliament. Mr. Grey frequently headed the attack on the minister, but Mr. Whitbread did not often speak. It should be noticed, however, that when he did deliver his opinions, his speeches were distinguished rather for solidity of remark than for splendor of diction.

On the death of his father, to his parliamentary occupations were added those of the house in Chiswell Street, and of an extensive landed property, laboring under many incumbrances; so that the natural activity of his mind was constantly on the alert.

It had never fallen to the lot of Mr. Whitbread particularly to distinguish himself in parliament; but his general conduct had been such as to raise him in the estimation of the party with which he was connected; and, after an enquiry into the proceedings of Lord Melville had been determined on, he was selected as a fit person to bring forward the subject. Had the enquiry originated with Mr. Fox, it could not so completely have holden up the semblance of impartiality; if Mr. Sheridan had undertaken the business, the brilliancy of his wit might have been too splendid for so serious an occasion; and, had it devolved on Mr. Grey, his precipitancy might probably have quashed the proceedings in their commencement. Mr. Whitbread had never been remarked, either for the violence of his language, or the brilliancy of his wit; but, on the contrary, being a man of business, and possessing an accurate knowledge of accounts, he was considered to be peculiarly well qualified for the task.

The whole routine of the proceedings, relative to this extraordinary affair, during the last session of parliament, has been briefly detailed in a preceding part of the present volume,* and consequently it would be unnecessary in this place to repeat them.

After Mr. Whitbread had apparently disposed of Lord Melville's business, by procuring an impeachment against his Lordship, he proceeded to bring forward before the house, the conduct of the late premier, Mr. Pitt. In this he was not equally successful. The conduct of Mr. Pitt was indeed admitted to be irregular, and even illegal, but by no means criminal;

* *Vide* the Life of Lord Melville, p. 47.

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and, in a moral point of view, his character shone with superior lustre from the ordeal which it had passed.

Mr. Whitbread, during the present session of parliament, has brought forward some fresh charges against Lord Melville, which have been added to the impeachment against him. As the trial of his Lordship is on the eve of taking place, that sense of decorum, for which we are anxious to be distinguished, prevents us from offering any comments on these charges: we have a right to consider the accused as innocent, until he be found guilty; while on the other hand, it is fair to presume, that the accuser feels himself actuated by none but honorable motives.

END OF VOL. I.

*** Consistently with the attention due to the work, and to the merits of the respective characters, whose memoirs occupy the present volume of THE MODERN PLUTARCH, it has been found impossible to present corresponding lives, to the whole of the Portraits which have appeared. Biographical Memoirs of the following characters, with others, will therefore be given in the next volume :——Dr. Parr, the Bishop of London, Mr. Incledon, Mr. Jefferson, the Rt. Hon. C. J. Fox, the late Dr. Hunter, Peter Pindar, Dr. Thomson, Mr. Waithman, Mr. Hayley, Mr. Holman, Dr. Haweis, Lord Chancellor Erskine, Sir Joseph Banks and the late Duke of Bedford.

At the close of the second volume, will also be given a general index, and table of contents, referring to the whole of the lives which will then have appeared.

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Directions to the Binder for placing the Plates.

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Plate II. Containing the Portraits of Lord Hood, Dr. Jenner, Mr. Incledon, Mr. Jefferson, and Mr. Kemble, to face page 254.

Plate III. Containing the Portraits of the Rev. Mr. Evans, Mr. Erskine, Mr. Fox, Mr. Bigland, and Lord Gardner, to face page 100.

Plate IV. Containing the Portraits of Dr. Hunter, Mr. Pitt Peter Pindar, Dr. Thomson, and Mr. Waithman, to face page 282.

Plate V. Containing the Portraits of the Rev. Rowland Hill, Mr. Heath, Mr. Hayley, Mr. Holman, and Dr. Hawes, to face page 406.

Plate VI. Containing the Portraits of Lord Bridport, the late Duke of Bedford, Mrs. Billington, Mr. Bloomfield, and Sir Joseph Banks, to face page 270.

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